
BIRZ
COMICS
月輪に斬り咲く
Tomo Maruyama presents
丸山朝ヲ

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それは、宿命と呼ぶにはあまりにも不遜で、そして禍々しい縛鎖だった。
男と女は抗う事すら許されず、その呪われた路を進むことを余儀なくされる。

非情かつ暗澹冥濛なる現実を前にし、
幽愁の少女が出した答えとは…。
血煙舞う衝撃の和風伝奇譚、
動乱の第伍巻。

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狗人族

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朔王寺
無明朔王寺流


月輪想


月輪（がちりん）に斬り咲く伍の刃
丸山
Tomō
Maruyama
presents
朝ヲ



Chapter 26 - Wind and Rock

Chapter 27 - Corpse

Chapter 28 - Demon Blood Makeup

Chapter 29 - In the Sky of Scattered Autumn Leaves

Chapter 30 - A Parting of Ways

Chapter 31 - Sakuou Temple

Chapter 32 - The Lightless Abyss

Chapter 33 - Visions of Becoming Human 1~
Uose Kamui, The Dog People Tribe


26
WIND AND ROCK


Thoughts of the Full Moon
THROUGH THE DUAL CULTIVATION OF THINKING OF THE "FULL MOON WITH MYSELF"
AND CONTINUING TO COMBAT IT
THE NAME OF THIS TECHNIQUE HAS BECOME
A "FULL MOON WITHIN YOURSELF" ... YOU SAY?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE FUN!!
I'LL TAKE YOU ON, LAD!


HE'S FAST!!
HHN?!
PREPARE ... YOURSELF!!
flower palm
UWHOA ...
wind blade!!
WHAT GOING ON?! YOUR ATTACKS ARE A LOT HEAVIER!!
Descending bird!!


ヒュー…
!!
ARE YOU TELLING ME THOSE THREE HEAVY BLOWS WERE A DIVERSION?!
THIS IS BAD... THAT MEANS THE NEXT ONE IS-
ドドドド…
Moon Crash !!


GUAAAA!
AVIDYA SAKUOJI TECHNIQUE
FLOWER-BIRD-WIND-MOON ...
.....
NO...
DID YOU... DO IT?
THE "GETTSUI" TECHNIQUE IS AN ATTACK ON THE "INSIDE" OF THE OPPONENT ...
SO FOR HIM TO BE BLOWN AWAY BY IT IS UNTHINKABLE...
SO IN ESSENCE -
GUHAHA ...


THAT HURT QUITE A BIT... LAD!!
SO...
AS I THOUGHT, HE DIVERTED THE FORCE OF MY ATTACK!
.....!
.....!
SEEING AS HOW YOU WERE USING YOUR FINISHING MOVE I DECIDED TO USE MY OWN.
GOHAA!


IT'S A THRUST THAT CAN PIERCE ROCKS
I CALL IT MY "ROCK PIERCER" !!
I WASN'T ABLE TO GET ALL OF IT IN, THOUGH.


FUURAI!!
I AM ALL RIGHT ...
I'VE COME TO GET AN IDEA
FOR WHAT THIS "THOUGHTS OF THE FULL MOON" IS...


NORMAL "INUGAMI POSSESSIONS" ARE THINGS THAT GET A POWER BOOST WHEN THE FULL MOON IS OUT BUT
AT THE SAME TIME THEY END UP LOSING THEMSELVES ...
BUT YOU MAKE YOUR OWN OWN FULL MOON WITHIN YOURSELF THAT ENABLES YOU TO GET POWER THROUGH IT...
AND I GUESS YOU ONLY RELEASE THAT POWER WHEN YOU'RE "JUMPING" OR "HITTING" SO YOU DON'T LOSE IT YOURSELF...


GIMME A BREAK, I HAVEN'T HAD MY FUN YET ...
AH? YOU ALREADY CALLING IT QUITS?
AS THINGS STAND I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO... WIN ...
IM- PRESSIVE
NOT TO WORRY
I WILL NOT RETREAT!
OR AS LONG AS IHANA STANDS BEHIND ME...

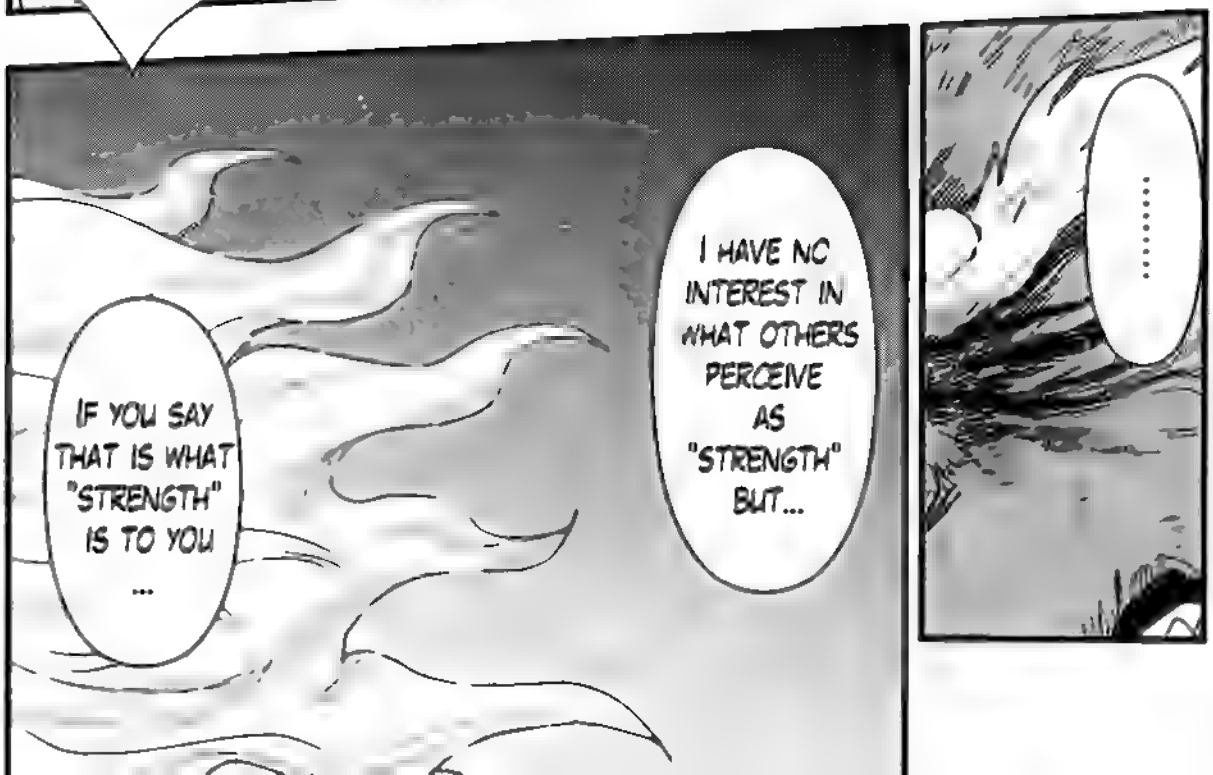

...


FUURAI !!


ZU...OH
SINCE YOU MENTIONED THAT I CAN'T HELP BUT REMEMBER THIS ONE LAD NAMED "MUKURO"...
SO YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT... FOR A WOMAN?


WHILE I WAS IN THE "OOFURU FOREST" I TOOK HIM ON AS A DISCIPLE ON A WHIM ...
HE KEPT GOING ON ABOUT HOW, "I'M GOING TO GET STRONGER SO I CAN BEAT THAT WOMAN" AND ALL THAT...
IF YOU ASK ME, THOUGH, PEOPLE WHO FIGHT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE ARE ONLY HALF THE MAN THEY SAY THEY ARE...


PEOPLE LIKE THEM END UP GETTING DRUNK OFF THEIR OWN REASONS
THEY DON'T TAKE THE PURSUIT OF STRENGTH SERIOUSLY AND TURN OUT TO BE NOTHING BUT WEAKLINGS!
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THEM., TOO? HUH?!


.....
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN WHAT OTHERS PERCEIVE AS "STRENGTH" BUT...
IF YOU SAY THAT IS WHAT "STRENGTH" IS TO YOU ...


THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SEE WHO IS LEFT STANDING
AND THAT ONE PERSON WILL BE THE ONE WHO IS STRONG.
LET'S GET THIS GOIN' AGAIN!!
HUHAHAA! NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT!
HIS EXPERIENCE... THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS POWERS OF THE MOON AND MY OWN... IF I CONTINUE TO PROLONG THIS FIGHT I WILL SURELY LOSE.
I SUPPOSE HE IS JUST WHAT ONE WOULD CALL AN "ANCIENT DOG"...


ビキ…
IF THAT IS SO...
THEN I WILL JUST HAVE TO END IT IN MY NEXT ATTACK!!
ビキ…
……!?
I WILL TAKE THE STANCE OF ONE PREPARING A BOW... STORE MY POWER.
ENLARGE THE FULL MOON WITHIN MYSELF_
ビキ…

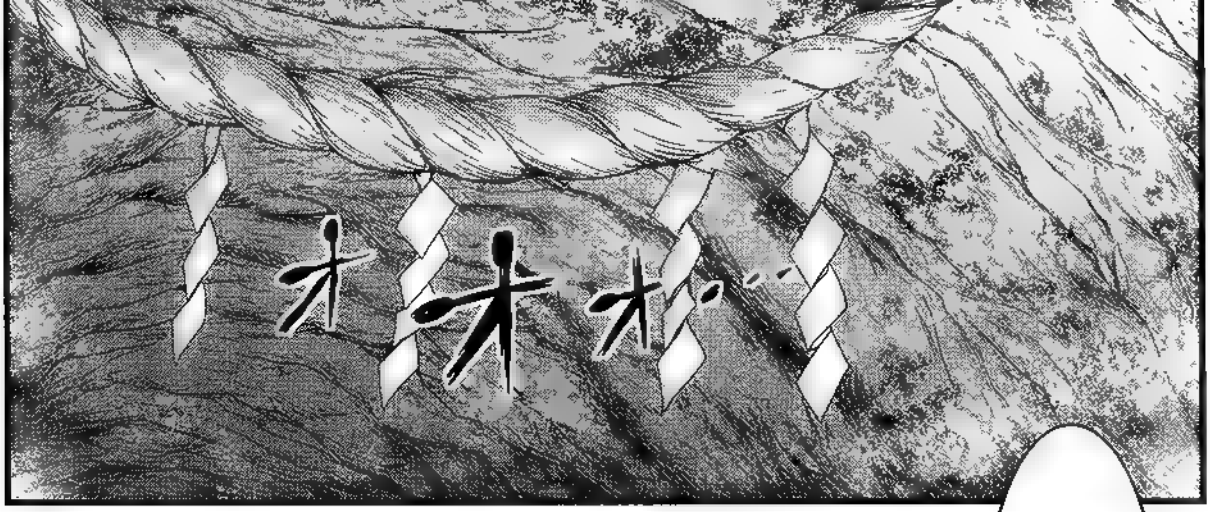

MORE... LARGER... LARGER!


AND THEN HOLD IT FOR AS LONG AS I CAN!


ビキ…
ビキ…

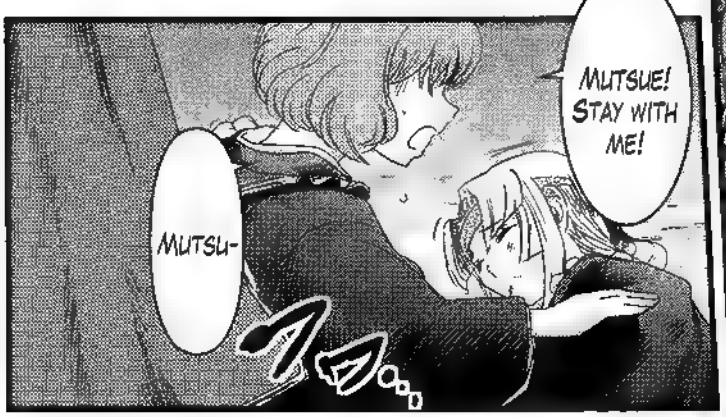

!?
WHAT'S ... GOIN' ON?
I CAN SEE THE FULL MOON IN HIM...
KUKU... THIS FEELING OF ELATION ...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M GETTING MORE POWER FROM THE MOON, TOO!


オオオ…
オオオ…
BUT... THAT STANCE IS TOO EASY TO READ ...
HE'LL MORE THAN LIKELY... HEAD STRAIGHT FOR ME WITH A THRUST ...
IT'LL PROBABLY BE SOMETHING LIKE... A DETERMINED ONE-HIT KILL SORT OF MOVE...
BUT YOU KNOW... NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT'S COMING THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET IT HIM ME...
IS HE STUPID?
I DON'T HATE THAT ...
I DON'T HATE THAT... BUT...
READING EACH OTHER'S MOVES IS ALSO A PART OF "STRENGTH," YOU KNOW ...
THE WEAKER ONE WILL JUST LOSE AND DIE...
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!!
ドゴ゛゛゛


オオオ…


OUR LADY IS IN DANGER ...
ポヤ?!
INUDAMA-SAMA... I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!


NOW... IF...
HAA... HAA...
REIN...-FORCE-MENTS... COME...


MUTSUE! STAY WITH ME!
MUTSU-


ヒュン!

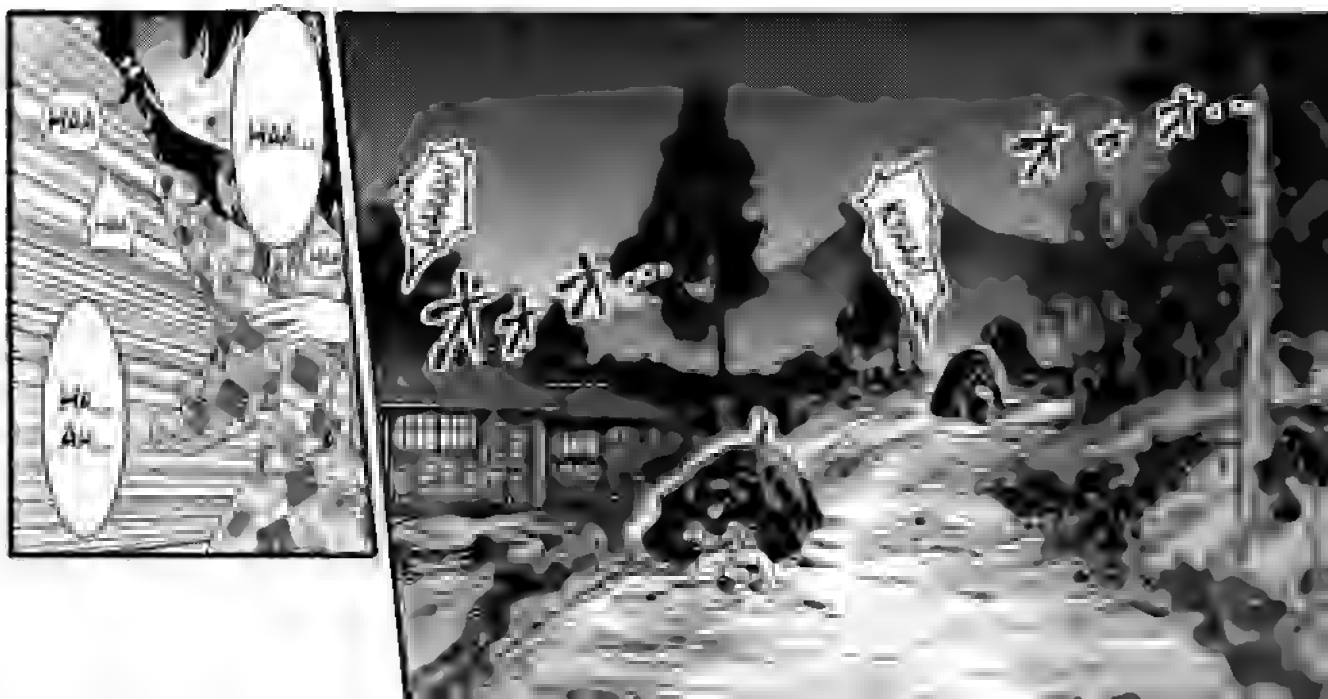

OH MY ...
YOU BOTH ARE STILL ALIVE?
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
!!


GOOD GIRLS MUST GO TO SLEEP WHEN THEY ARE TOLD...
THAT WILL NOT DO AT ALL...
ザワ
ザワ
ザワザワザワ
AAH -


ORINOMIYA
オォオ…
オォオ…






HAA...
HAA...
HA...
AH...


I CAN'T DO IT...
ズーン
DA...D
I CAN'T... BELIEVE... I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT AWAY...
HAA
HAA
HAA
UUU... MOM ...
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS... GOING ON?
THOSE MONSTERS ATTACKING THE VILLAGE ...
ARE JUST LIKE HOW KAINA-SENPAI WAS...
HAH
HAH
ハァ ハァ...
!!
オォ オ~
GRRR ...
NO... STO...P ...
DON'T... DO... THIS...
HAH
HAH
ハァ ハァ...

NOOO
...

EH?


SA...
KU
...
CHA
...N?


MILADY !!
WE JUST RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM YOTSUE! IWANA-SAMA HAS COME INTO CONTACT WITH AKAZUKIN AS WELL.
THEY ARE TWO MOUNTAINS AWAY!
!
RIGHT HERE
SAKU-CHAN!
THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?
.....
ITSUE-SAN ... I WILL LEAVE THAT GIRL TO YOU..
NANAE-SAN, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME WITH ME AND CONTINUE YOUR REPORT
AKAZUKIN


I AM SORRY ...
FOR DRAGGING YOU INTO THIS AGAIN!!
SAKU-CHAN!!
SAKU-CHAN...
YOU ALWAYS... SAVE... ME...


I... NEVER ONCE THOUGHT ...
THAT YOU DRAGGED ME INTO THIS AT ALL...


MOTHER... I WANT TO GO AND SAVE YOU, BUT...
WITH ORINOMIYA AS IT IS... I CANNOT AFFORD TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO LEAVE...
AS I "KOUGA" THE BARRIER SURROUNDING "OOFURI FORES" HAS BEEN NEGATED
WE MUST HURRY AND FIND YUZURI-SAN!


.....
MILADY! PLEASE GO!
WE OF THE INUMORI BRANCH HOUSE WILL HOLD OUT SOME HOW!
.....
BUT-


IT'S ALL RIGHT, SAKUYA-SAN.
YUZURI-SAN!


WHAT'S MORE, OTHER THAN YOUR "VOID JUMP" WE WOULD ALL TAKE TOO LONG TO GET THERE...
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOUR MOTHER.
.....!
ALL... RIGHT ...
ONCE I HAVE SAVED HER... I WILL RETURN RIGHT AWAY!
DO NOT FORCE YOURSELF! ONCE YOU HAVE SAVED HER JUST RUN AWAY!
IS THAT UNDER-STOOD?!
RIGHT!!


"HI... FU... MI"
YO... I... MU... NA ..."
"YA... KO... TO!"
SHIPPE !!
YOU GOT IT!


月輪（がちりん）に斬り咲く

DEUS EX SCANS

GETSURIN NI KIRI SAKU



CHAPTER 26
VOLUME 5

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BUT NOW THAT I KNOW IT'S COMING I DON'T PLAN ON GETTING HIT WITH IT.
IN ORDER TO DEFEAT HIM, I JUST HAVE TO DODGE IT AND HIT HIM WITH MY "ROCK PIERCER"
AND THEN IT WILL BE OVER!!

27 CORPSE




I'M ALMOST ...
NOW... BRING IT ON!
COME ON
IN RANGE OF YOUR ATTACK!!
I'M RIGHT HERE!!
BRING IT!!


WHA-?!
HE'S... NOT ATTACKING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL BUT...
AS THINGS ARE NOW THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WIN!!

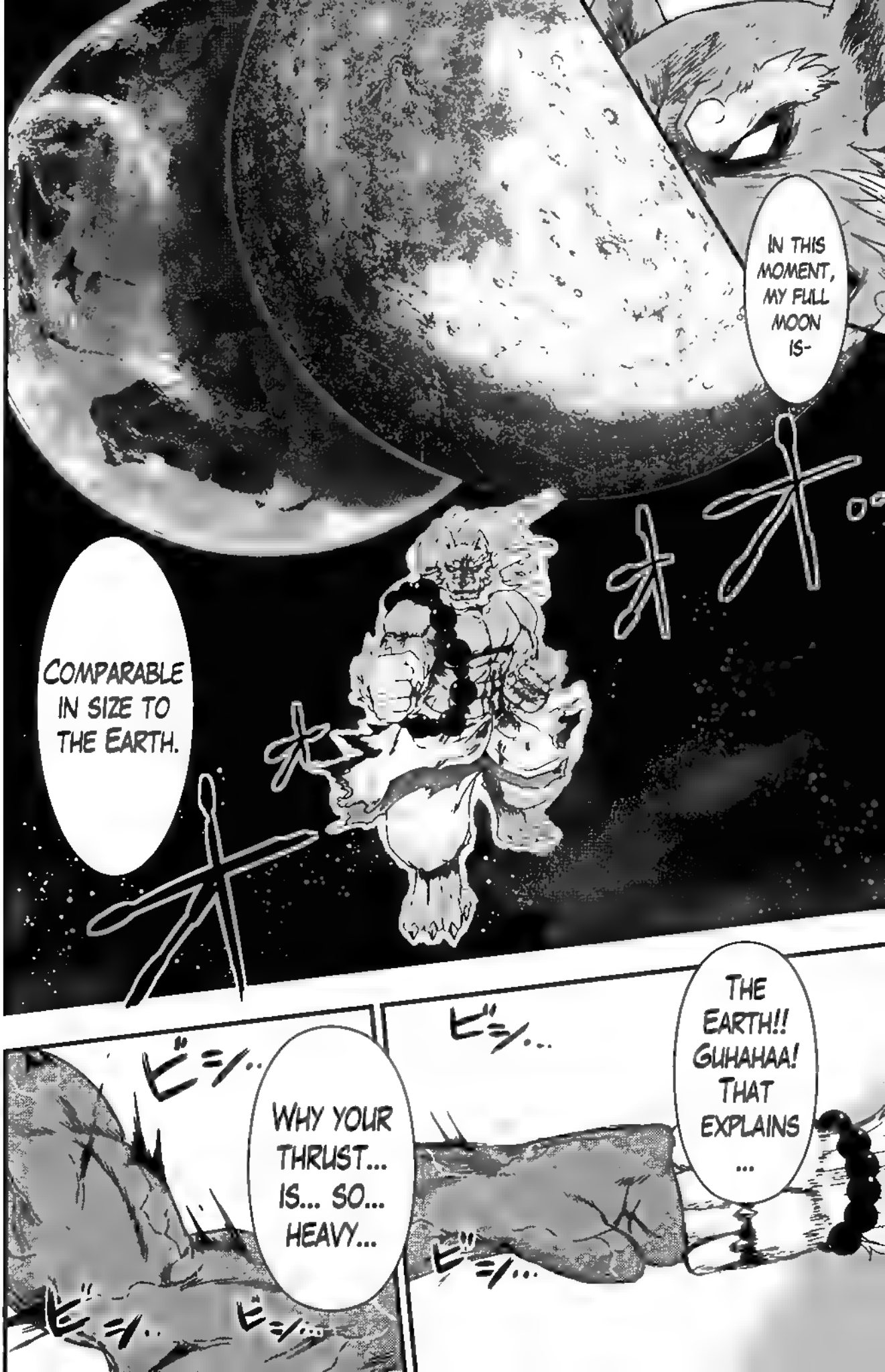

I KNEW IT, SO THIS IS YOUR LIMIT!!
SEE YA!
Rock Pierce!!
FUURAI!!
GOHUU ...


TOOK MY ATTACK ON AND MADE SURE IT AVOIDED HIS VITAL SPOTS?!
!?
HE...
ゴゴゴ...
I HAVE BEEN WAITING... FOR YOU TO GET THIS CLOSE...
NOW YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DODGE MY NEXT ATTACK!
ドゥ
ドゥ
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER!!
TSK!
.....!
MOON CRASH!!
AVIDYA SAKUOJI TECHNIQUE


OH?!
!OOOOOH!
IT'S HUGE!
GUHAHA-HAA!!
WHAT A HUGE MOON !!


HM
?!


WHAT ...
IS THIS WIND?
KU KU KU ...
HEY, FUURAI ...
JUST HOW BIG... IS YOUR "FULL MOON" RIGHT NOW?


IN THIS MOMENT, MY FULL MOON IS-
COMPARABLE IN SIZE TO THE EARTH.
THE EARTH!! GUHAHAA! THAT EXPLAINS ...
WHY YOUR THRUST... IS... SO... HEAVY...
ビシ..
ビシ..
ビシ..
ビシ..
ビシ..




GU... UUU ...
SO I... COULDN'T... DEFLECT... IT...
WHAT A FEARSOME TECHNIQUE ...
ボタ
ボタ


FUURAI ...
IHANA ...
IT IS NOTHING SERIOUS ...


KU KUKU... YOU'RE REALLY STRONG
YOU'RE NOT EVEN AN ANCIENT DOG AND YET... THAT STRENGTH... IS
GOHUU
I... I KNEW IT, WAS IT BECAUSE. YOU HAVE... "SOMEONE TO PROTECT" ?


NO ...
I AM WEAK...
THOUGH I HAVE SPENT COUNTLESS YEARS MEDITATING... AND CONTINUED TO FIGHT MYSELF ...
I STILL HAVE YET TO GAIN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE "POWER" WITHIN MYSELF..


I AM THE VERY EPITOME OF INEXPERIENCE
NOT ONLY AM I UNABLE TO SAVE OTHERS
I CANNOT SAVE MYSELF
HE'S IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT CLASS FROM ME WHAT'S BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE STRONGER
I GUESS IT'S... NO WONDER I LOST
OI... LEADER OF THE INUGAMI!
I SEE... SO HIS ENEMY WILL FOREVER BE HIMSELF
I SEE... SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
KUKU.


CUT MY HEAD OFF WHILE I'M STILL FEELING GOOD.
JUST CUT IT OFF AND TAKE IT WITH YOU!
.....
THEY WERE ABOUT TO CUT MY HEAD OFF
LIKE THEY DID FOR "GREAT INUGAMIS" OR WHATEVER THEY CALLED THEM...
A LONG TIME AGO...
I GOT THIS SCAR ON MY NECK WHEN YOUR INUMORI BUDDIES BOUND ME WITH THEIR "SPELL" AND MADE IT SO I COULDN'T MOVE
THAT WAS WHEN I JUST REALLY HATED THE IDEA OF DYING WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO PUT UP A FIGHT


I'LL LET YOU CUT MY HEAD OFF.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M FEELING REALLY GOOD SO
AND IT WAS THANKS TO THAT MY "POWER OF THE MOON" AWAKENED AND I GOT THIS BODY THAT'S UNAFFECTED BY SPELLS.
I SEE ...
チャ
.....
SEE-
I'M GLAD I GOT TO FIGHT YOU IN THE END.
FUURAI ...

YA...

RUOOOOOOO!

JUST WHAT IS HE-?!

THE BOY... FROM THE NINOGI FAMILY?!


UHUHUHU... THANK YOU FOR SAVING US ALL THE TROUBLE, FUURA!
WE WERE AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO ABOUT KUCHINA WHO WAS IMMUNE TO SPELLS... AND NEVER LET HIS GUARD DOWN


IT IS THANKS TO YOU
THAT WE WERE ABLE TO GET KUCHINA'S HEAD


AKA... ZUKIN!


HUAH


THE HEAD OF A YATSU-FUSA?!
IT IS JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU INTEND TO BRING OSEKAMI-HIME-
DO NOT... SPEAK THAT NAME SO LIGHTLY...
YOU LOWLY INUGAMI!

KAINA
RUOOO ...
GU... GUAAA ...


I DO NOT NEED... A SWORD THAT HAS LOST ITS EDGE.
PLEASE... DO NOT LOOK SO PATHETIC.


I... A...M ...
THAT'S... RIGHT... I AM A "SWORD" ...
I AM... A BLACK... "SWORD" THAT... PROTECTS AKA...ZUKIN... AAH!!
THAT IS CORRECT. YOU ARE MY "SWORD" AND YOU ARE TO PROTECT ME...
AS WELL AS...
SLAY MY "ENEMIES".

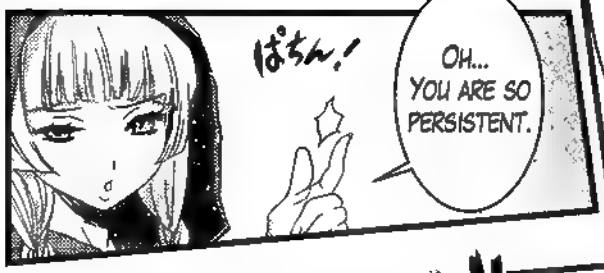

BOY... NOT ONLY HAVE YOU HAD YOUR MEMORIES SEALED
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UNDER A TROUBLESOME ENCHANTMENT AS WELL...
TSK... CAN I REALLY HOPE TO INTERCEPT HIM... WITH JUST ONE ARM?!
FAREWELL, INUGAMI.
.....!!
KUU!


FUURAI !!
GUGU ...


YOUNG ... MAN ...
GEHOO
ﾖﾛ..


GRRRR ...


I CAN TELL FROM YOUR SWORD THAT YOU HAVE DEVOTED YOURSELF TO LEARNING... THE ART OF THE SWORD FOR MANY YEARS...
IT IS A PITY TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE BECOME A PUPPET... AND GONE ROGUE.


ぱちん!
OH... YOU ARE SO PERSISTENT.


GU... OOH?!
"BLACK BUTTERFLY CHAINS"
GUGU ...


GO NOW, KAINA... GO AND CUT FUURAI'S HEAD OFF.
YOU CANNOT MOVE, CORRECT? I HAVE RESTRAINED YOUR MOVEMENTS.

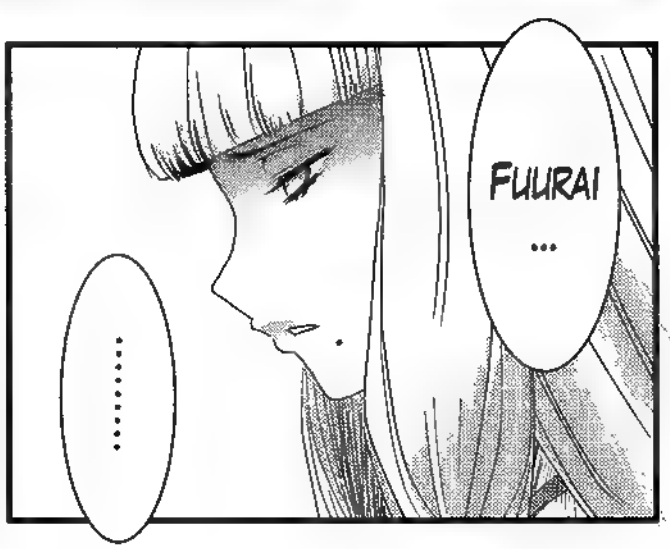

IHANA...

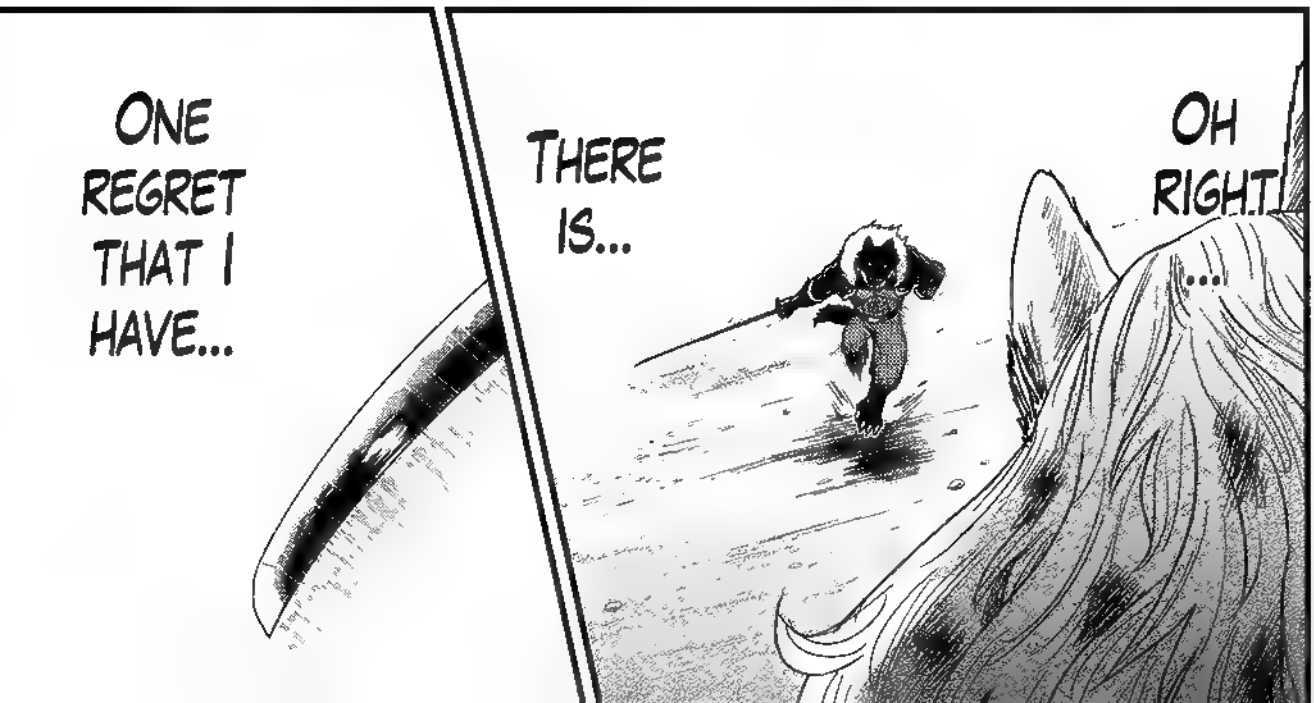

GRRR... RRR


SO THERE IS NOTHING MORE I CAN DO... HM.
.....


YES.
.....


IT IS FINE ...
IT IS FOR THIS VERY REASON THAT I HAVE LIVED SO LONG.


FUURAI ...
.....


ONE REGRET THAT I HAVE...
THERE IS...
OH RIGHT ...

Sakuya.

"daughter"

My

all

grown

up...

And

it is

that I

never

got to

see

ぶしゃあああ


I WILL NOT SIMPLY GIVE IT TO YOU.
FULURAI'S HEAD IS MINE...
.....!


THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST DO BEFORE I DIE.
KUONRYUU FORBIDDEN TECHNIQUE ...
FOR NOW PLEASE WAIT FOR ME ON THE OTHER SIDE, FULURAI ...


"DEMON BLOOD MAKEUP"
It is for the sake of our daughter.

DEUS EX SCANS

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28

DEMON BLOOD MAKEUP!!

KUONRYUU FORBIDDEN TECHNIQUE ...

チリン

28 DEMON BLOOD MAKEUP


月輪（がちりん）に斬り咲く


WHY DO YOU NOT FINISH ME OFF
WITH A SUPPRESSING RING"?
I DO NOT KNOW
I DO NOT KNOW!
...
IT IS NO USE...
I HAVE ATTEMPTED IT COUNTLESS TIMES AND YET...
MEMORIES OF OUR TIME TOGETHER KEEP CROSSING MY MIND
WHAT'S MORE


I DO NOT WANT TO FINISH OFF THE FATHER ...
OF OUR CHILD... WHO IS STILL... INSIDE MY BELLY.
HU... I SEE YOU ARE AS ADORABLE AS EVER... IHANA...
WHAT A HOPELESS WOMAN YOU ARE ...
MY BODY... MY LIFE ...


ALL OF IT IS YOURS ...
I WILL WAIT FOR HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES... SO TAKE MY LIFE WHENEVER YOU WISH...
UNTIL THEN I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN... TO SURVIVE
THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... IF I CAN MEDITATE I CAN PASS THE TIME HOWEVER MUCH I WANT...
THAT'S RIGHT... FUURAI... FUURAI ...
PLEASE LET ME... AT LEAST USE YOUR LIFE... FOR THE SAKE OF OUR DAUGHTER...


THIS TECHNIQUE USES MY VERY LIFE... SO THERE IS NO TELLING HOW LONG I WILL LAST, BUT .
LET US... FIGHT TOGETHER !!


GRRR...
.....


A FORBIDDEN TECHNIQUE ?
SO YOU HAD A SPELL INFUSED WITH FUURAI'S BLOOD... IN ADVANCE ...
WHAT A SHREWD THING TO DO.
HMPF ...
THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR YOU, SHIRACHIGO ...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IS THE MATTER, BOY? YOU ARE NOT GOING TO COME FOR ME?
GRRR...
IF YOU WILL NOT ...
THEN I WILL COME FOR YOU ...


LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH... FUURAI ...
KUON-RYUU-
DEMONIC FORCE TECHNIQUE...
!?

SKULL CRUSHING DRAGON!!
GRRR
...


BLACK BUTTERFLY CHAINS!!
I SUPPOSE I HAVE NO CHOICE, THEN...




DEMONIC BINDING TECHNIQUE
SKULL SEIZING DRAGON
KUON-RYUU-


ひゅらら
……!!
きゃあ
WHA-


!!
HM
.....!
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT? NOW YOU CANNOT MOVE!
THE "KUONRYUU" MAY TAKE ON THE APPEARANCE OF BEING A SWORD TECHNIQUE BUT
TO BE PRECISE IT IS NOT A SWORD TECHNIQUE AT ALL.
IT IS BUT A GENERAL TERM FOR SPELLS THAT WEAKEN INUGAMI POSSESSIONS LIKE YOURSELF... AND STRENGTHEN THE ABILITIES OF MEMBERS OF THE INUGAMI FAMILY LIKE OURSELVES
...
OH HONESTLY
KAINA!


GAAAA!
UHUHU ...
TSK...
I HAVE SENT THE "ROOTS" OF YOUR SPELL INTO THE GROUND... AS IT STANDS I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE FROM HERE.
IF YOU DO NOT UNDO THIS THEN YOU WILL END UP BEING RUN THROUGH.
HOW VEXING ...

HOWEVER, I WILL NOT LET YOU GO!

MY ARM WAS RENDERED USELESS BY THAT YATSUFUSA'S ATTACK...

SO I WILL LET YOU HAVE IT!

ぎゅっ…

ぶしゃあっ


JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH!
LET US GET STARTED!
NOW, HAVE AT ME, BOY!!


ボッ!!
ギギギ
……!?
ズズ…

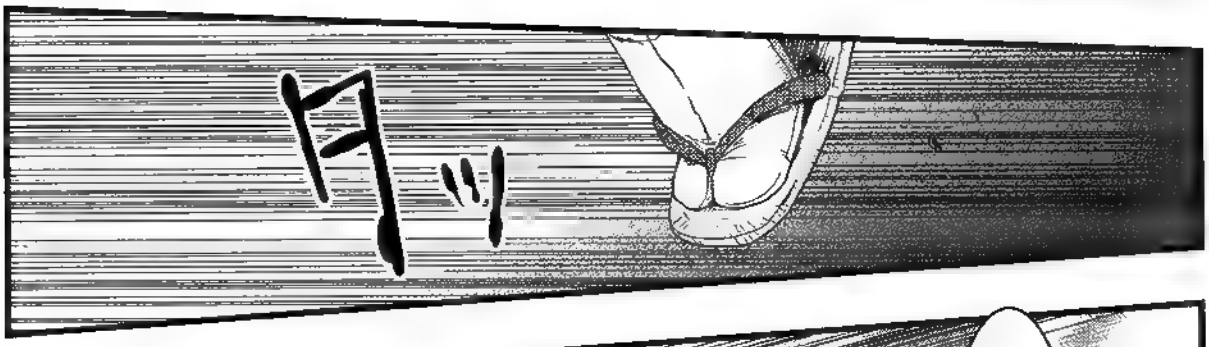

MoonCrash!!!
FEAR NOT
IF IT WERE A REAL "MOONCRASH" YOU WOULD HAVE DIED, BUT
THIS IS BUT A CHEAP IMITATION SO YOU WILL NOT DIE FROM IT.
GAA... AAH


NOW GET UP... BOY!!
YOU ARE GOING TO FREE SAKUYA... FROM MYSELF, ARE YOU NOT?!
AAAH ...
AH
I... AM ...
THA... THAT'S RIGHT ...
GO... GOING... TO... SET... SOMEONE ... FREE...


THAT IS RIGHT!
NOW COME AT ME SERIOUSLY!
カアッ!!


FORGIVE ME... SAKUYA ...
IN THE END I WAS UNABLE TO ACT LIKE A MOTHER AT ALL...
I DO NOT THINK DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD ATONE FOR THAT BUT...
I HOPE THAT IT WOULD AT LEAST...






GARY-UUKEN


PULL TOP!!
AT LEAST ...


I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT... BOY!!
KUKUKU...
KUKU...

DEUS EX SCANS

GETSURIN NI KIRI SAKU



CHAPTER 28
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TRANSLATOR
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29
INUO KUON-RYUU-


ALWAYS TRUE FIVE MOON SHOGI
29
IN THE SKY OF SCATTERED AUTUMN LEAVES


I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY MORE SHOTS I CAN FIRE
HAA
HAA
THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY OF THEM!


UUU
...
ガッ
I AM ABOUT TO REACH MY LIMIT AND CLOSING THE DISTANCE AS WELL...
IF I DO TO ENDURE MYSELF TO MAINTAIN IT LONG BE ABLE TO CHANGE BACK...
I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS
AND FOR "BRUSHING THEM UNDER THE RUG" LIKE THIS
HERE COMES ... THE NEXT WAVE!
!


My, my... Just as I was wondering why the advance of the Inugami possessions were slowing down...
If I am not mistaken... You were that branch house woman who fired that arrow "that time," correct ?
!
Can I... defeat... him?
I knew it, so you did come, Yatsufusa ...


Hihaa
Hanemaru!
Kougen!!


IF THAT HAPPENS THEN THIS VILLAGE IS--!!
I MAY VERY WELL LOSE FOR ALL I KNOW...
FORGIVE ME, SAKUYA-SAN...




I HAVE BEEN
WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT... BOY!!
ゴッ!!
DEMONIC EROSION TECHNIQUE
"TENDRIL FANG"


GU... AAH ?!
OOOOOO OOOOOO OOOOOO OOOOOO
THE ENCHANTMENT HE IS UNDER IS BY NO MEANS SIMPLE...
I HAVE TO GO ABOUT UNDOING IT FROM... THE... INSIDE... AND OUT...

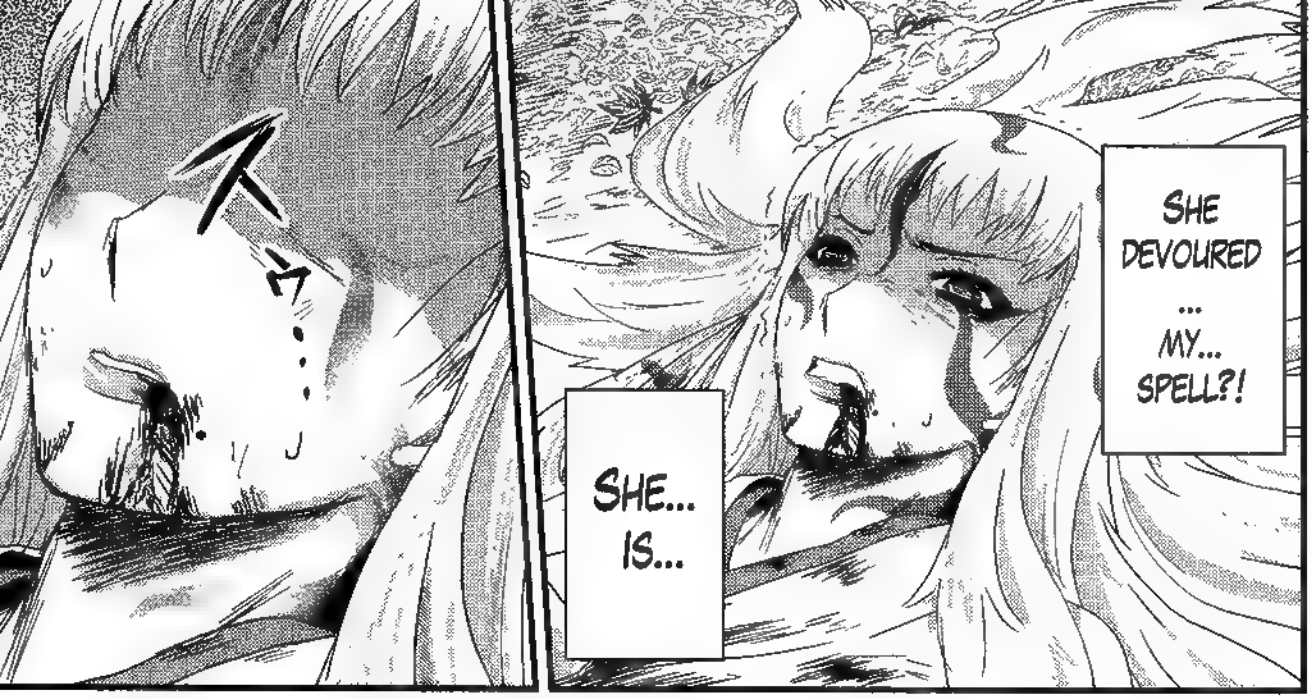

OTO
...
AAAH
...
I WILL INJECT... MY BLOOD... INTO HIS BODY AND "KILL" THE SPELLS WITHIN HIM...
NOW WE WILL JUST HAVE TO SEE IF I AM ABLE TO DO UNDO THE ENCHANTMENT FIRST...
HAAA...
HAAA...
OR IF... I WILL SIMPLY... BLEED... TO DEATH...
KA... YA...
HAAA...
ビク
GAAA
NU... MI
O...
ビクッ

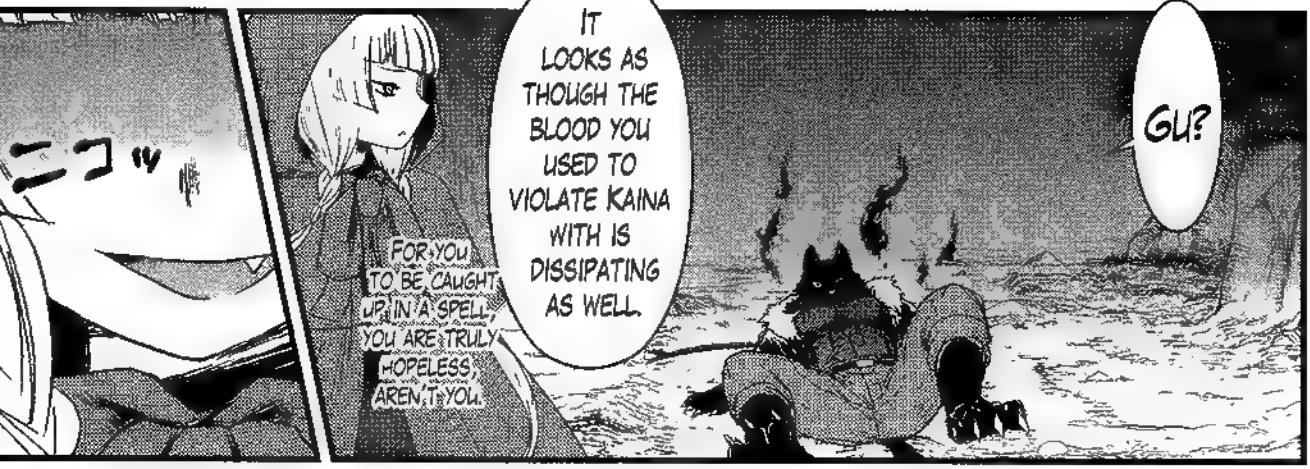

す…
すとーん
IMU!
HI...
FU!


WH-
……AT?


AKA...
ZU...
KIN!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE RUN THROUGH WITH YOUR OWN SWORD?
UHUH...


HOW... IS SHE FREE? SHE WAS... IN MY BINDING SPELL...
OH
ARE YOU WONDERING ABOUT YOUR BINDING SPELL?
UHUHU ...
IT FELT VERY GOOD, YOU KNOW ...
HOWEVER, I ENDED UP ENJOYING IT ALL BEFORE THAT HAPPENED ...
IT WAS SO SINISTER I FELT AS THOUGH I WAS ABOUT TO DROWN IN ECSTASY ...
UHU... IT IS SUCH A PITY...


SHE DEVOURED ... MY... SPELL?!
SHE... IS...


GU?
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE BLOOD YOU USED TO VIOLATE KAINA WITH IS DISSIPATING AS WELL.
FOR YOU TO BE CAUGHT UP IN A SPELL, YOU ARE TRULY HOPELESS, AREN'T YOU.


HEY, ARE YOU ABOUT TO DIE
INUGAMI?

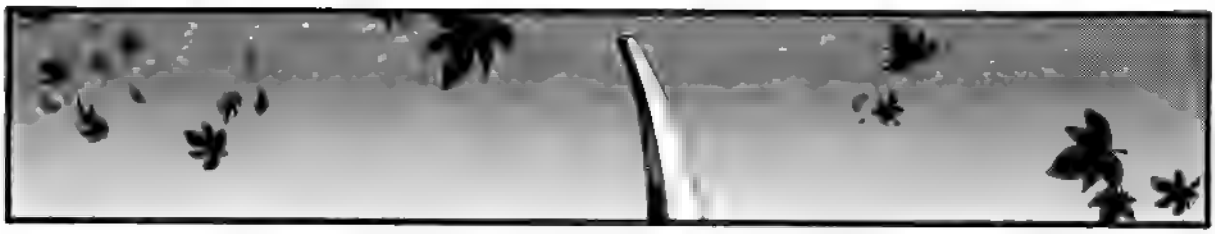

DO BE SURE TO DIE COMPLETELY, WON'T YOU ?
INUGAMI
FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO DIE, I AM SO ENVIOUS OF YOU ...
GAHUU ...

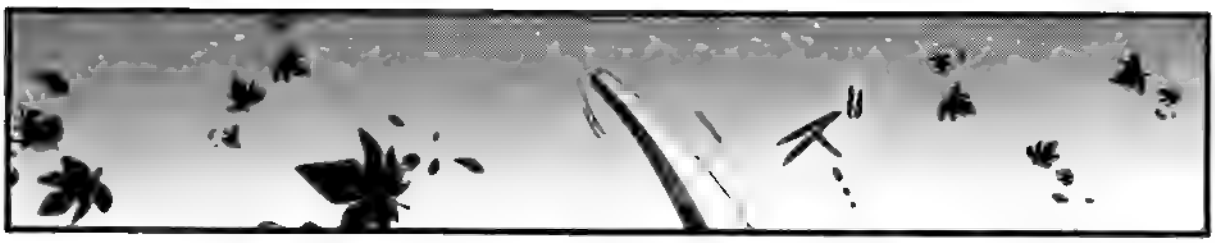

I WILL BE TAKING FUURAI'S HEAD WITH ME...
AH... OH YES...
I WONDER IF ORINOMIYA IS ALL BUT RAVAGED BY NOW...


IF THAT IS SO THEN YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
NOW CAN YOU?
AHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA...










I WONDER WHY I DID NOT... JUST TRY TO FINISH HIM OFF...
AS HE IS NOW IT WOULD NOT HAVE MATTERED IF HE DIED...
ズポ…


ズズズ
ゴロ…
ズズ…
ゴロ…
ズズ…
FULL... RAI'S BEAD?
DID I... WANT THIS?
NO... I DO NOT FEEL... THAT... WAS... IT...
THEN... WHAT? JUST WHAT WAS I HOPING FOR?

MOTHER
!!


I WANTED TO SEE YOU
AAH... I SEE


SAKUYA...
BEFORE I DIED...

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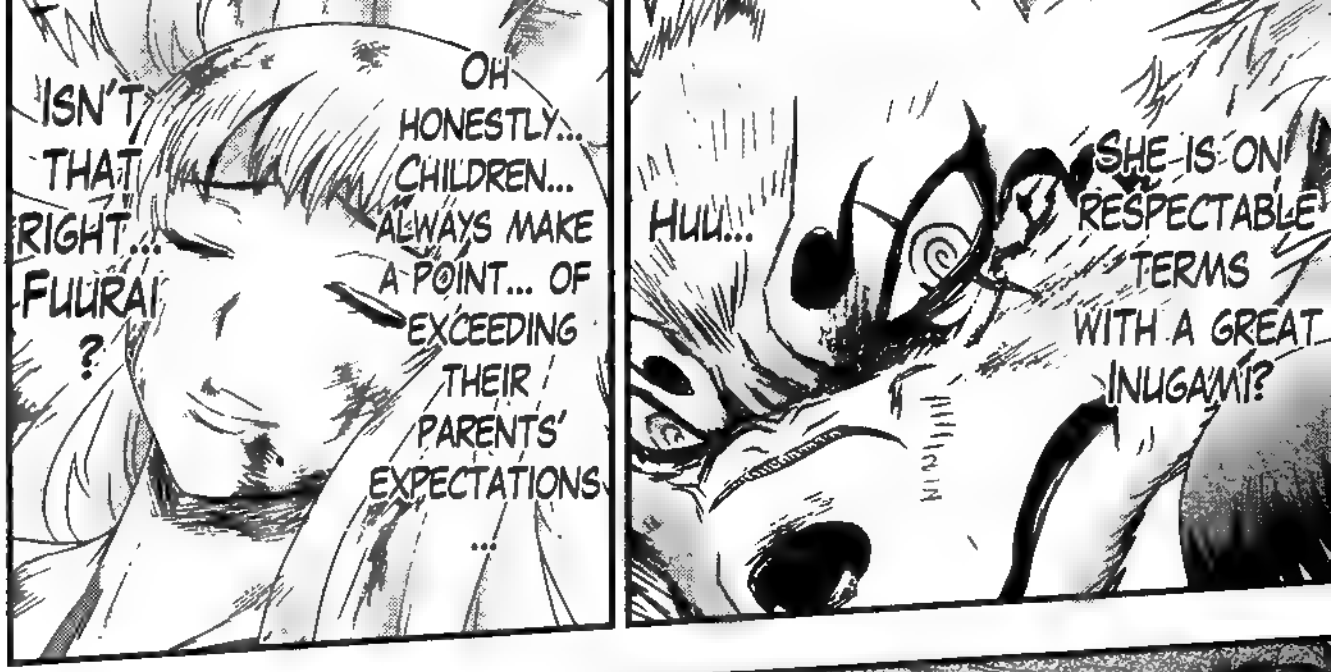
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30
A PARTING OF WAYS
MOTHER!!
THERE IS... SO MUCH BLOOD!!
MOTHER ...


YOU'RE TELLIN' ME I'M TOO LATE AGAIN ?!
TSK ...


THIS IS A CRISIS!
WHAT'S MORE SHIPPE AND I ARE GETTING ALONG JUST FINE...
I THOUGHT I... TOLD YOU... TO ONLY USE IT... IN A CRISIS...
THAT FORM... YOU WERE JUST IN... THAT WAS A... "HIFUMI" ... WASN'T IT?


ISN'T THAT RIGHT... FUURAI ?
OH HONESTLY... CHILDREN... ALWAYS MAKE A POINT... OF EXCEEDING THEIR PARENTS' EXPECTATIONS ...
HUU...
SHE IS ON RESPECTABLE TERMS WITH A GREAT INUGAMI?


I AM... BEYOND... SAVING ...
SAKUYA... LISTEN... CLOSELY ...


THIS IS... THE RESULT... OF SOMETHING... I BROUGHT UPON MYSELF ...
I AM NOT SAYING THIS... OUT OF... PURE SPECULATION ...
GOHUU...
THA... THAT CAN'T BE!
EH?!


NO... I'LL BE SURE... TO SAVE YOU!!
SO DON'T TALK ANY-MORE!
YOUR MOTHER IS ONLY LIVING SO THAT SHE CAN SPEAK WITH YOU...
NO... I WILL... NOT...
RIGHT NOW...
THERE ARE... MANY THINGS... THAT I NEED... TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR ...
FIRST... WOULD BE THAT... I WAS... UNABLE... TO STOP AKAZUKIN... HERE...
!?


I WAS NO MATCH FOR THEM... AND THEY MADE OFF... WITH THE LAST HEAD... OF THE YATSUFUSA ...
I THOUGHT THAT... IF I WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THEM HERE... THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO... PREVENT THE WORST FROM HAPPENING, BUT...

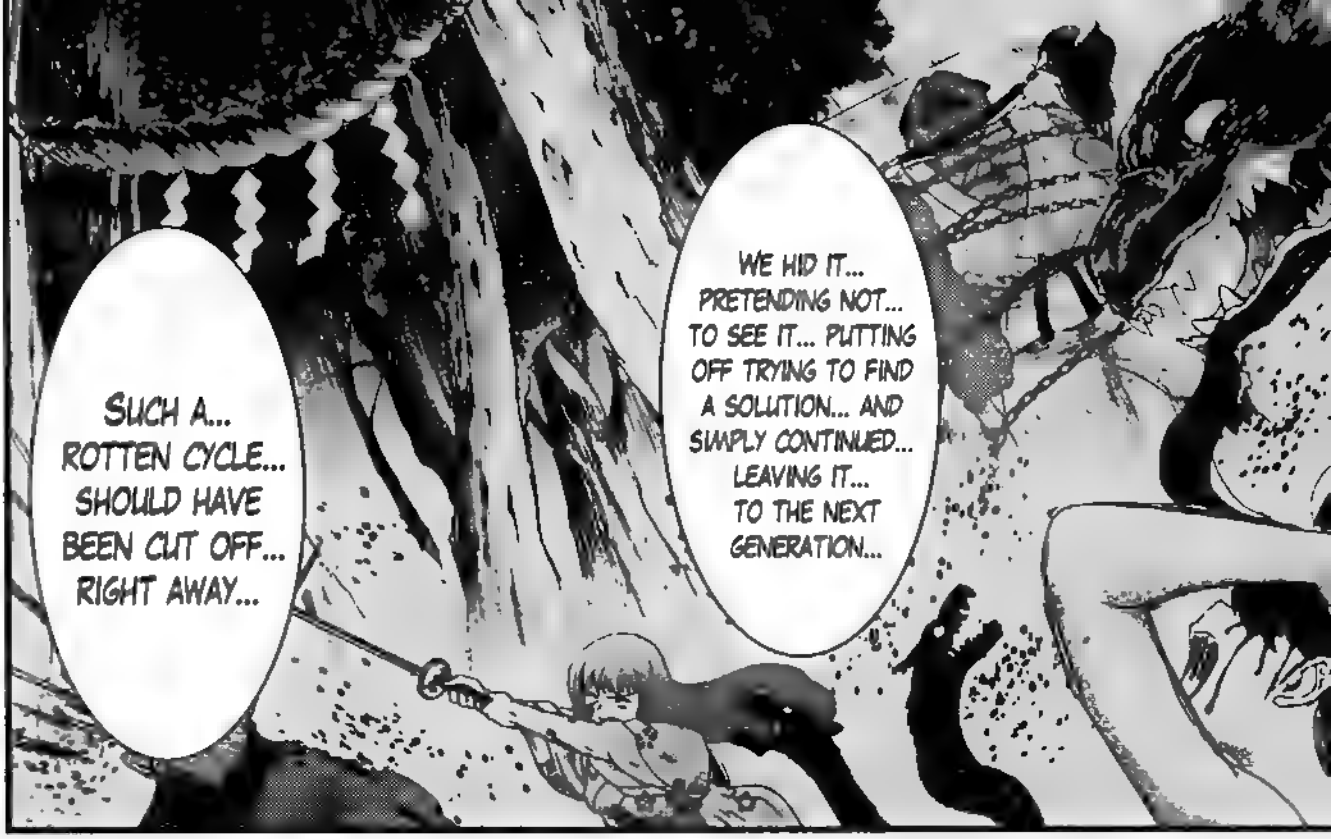

I KNEW IT... I THOUGHT... THIS MIGHT HAPPEN ...
AH!
THE BARRIER AROUND OOFURU FOREST HAS DISAPPEARED!
WHAT HAS... BECOME... OF ORINOMIYA?


AAH
I BETTER GO BACK THEN AND-
IT CAN'T BE...
.....!
THEN ORINOMIYA ... HAS FALLEN ...


IT IS... NO USE... YOU WILL NOT... MAKE IT IN TIME...
WHAT'S MORE ...
YOU ARE NOT... OBLIGATED... TO PROTECT... SUCH A TWISTED LAND...


EH?


IF YOU... CONTINUE... PUTTING A LID... ON SOMETHING FOUL...
THEN IT WILL BE... SURE... TO OVERFLOW... ONE... DAY...
WE SHOULD HAVE... KNOWN... THAT... AND YET... WE COULD NOT... DO... ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
NO... WE DID NOT EVEN TRY... TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...


WE HID IT... PRETENDING NOT... TO SEE IT... PUTTING OFF TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION... AND SIMPLY CONTINUED... LEAVING IT... TO THE NEXT GENERATION...
SUCH A... ROTTEN CYCLE... SHOULD HAVE BEEN CUT OFF... RIGHT AWAY...


.....

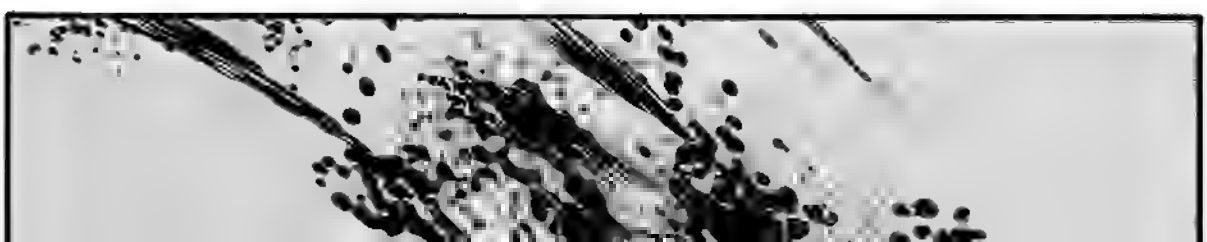

YOU ARE... SURPRISINGLY ... CALM...
YOU HAVE ALREADY... SEEN... QUITE A BIT, HAVEN'T YOU...
...
I...
NO... YOUR FATHER... AND... I...


MY...
FA... THER?
THERE IS... ONE OTHER THING... THAT I MUST APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR...
WE THOUGHT THAT... WE HAD TO... DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT ...
WANTED TO... DO SOMETHING... ABOUT THIS MADDENING... SITUATION ...


YOU ARE A CHILD BORN... OF THE INUGAMI FAMILY... AS WELL AS THEIR ARCHENEMIES... THE "YATSUFUSA" ...
YOUR FATHER... FUURAI... OF THE "SANZASHI" FAMILY... WAS A SACRIFICE TO THE YATSUFUSA ...


I... NEVER... TOLD YOU... WHO YOUR... FATHER WAS...
EVEN THOUGH... THERE WAS NO DOUBT... THAT YOU WANTED TO KNOW... AND FOR THAT I AM SORRY.
AS TIME PASSED... AND WE WERE TRYING TO... FIND A WAY TO END IT... TO NO AVAIL...
FUU-BAI... ENDED UP... BECOMING AN INUGAMI POSSESSION...


WHEN THAT HAPPENED... I THOUGHT IT BEST TO AVOID HIM AL TOGETHER... BUT... THE SITUATION WOULD NOT... ALLOW IT...
AND SO... I ENDED UP... BEING SWEPT INTO COMBAT... WITH FUURAI




IN THE END... IT WAS DUE TO MY... NAIVETÉ... THAT I DID NOT... FINISH HIM... WITH A SUPPRESSING RING...
AND YET... IN SPITE OF THAT...
IN SPITE OF WHAT I HAD DONE... I... TOLD YOU...
TO... "SUPPRESS KAINA" !!
IN THE END... I... COULD NOT... ESCAPE... FROM THIS ROTTEN CYCLE... AND MADE YOU... OF THE NEXT GENERATION ...
FOLLOW... THE SAME... ACCURSED PATH... AS I... HAD...
I AM SURE... YOU HATE ME... AND CAN NEVER FORGIVE ME... SAKUYA...
KUU ...
THER-


THERE... ISN'T ANYTHING TO FORGIVE ...
I LOVE... HOW HUMAN YOU ARE, MOTHER ...
A MOTHER ... SUCH AS MYSELF?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU WILL FORGIVE ?
!


.....!
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH... IT IS... ALMOST TIME...
MY VISION... IS BECOMING... CLOUDY...
WOULD YOU... LET ME... HOLD YOU, SAKUYA?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... I HAD... BECOME SO STRICT WITH YOU... THAT I NEVER REALLY... HELD YOU IN MY ARMS... ALL THAT... MUCH...
FORGIVE... ME...
UHN- UHN
AAH ...
YOU ARE... SO WARM... AND YOU... SMELL OF... FLOWERS ...

YOU WILL... CHANGE... JUST LIKE FLOWERS DO...

SAKUYA ...

WHILE I... YOUR MOTHER... WAS LIKE A ROCK... WHO COULD NEITHER ESCAPE THIS CYCLE...

NOR... CHANGE... MYSELF OR ANY...THING AT ALL...

HOWEVER... YOU... YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE...

WHO CAN... DECIDE THINGS... FOR YOURSELF ...


YOU CAN THROW AWAY YOUR SWORD... IF YOU WANT...
AAAH ...
YOU CAN CHOOSE NOT TO RETURN... TO ORINOMIYA ...
MO... THER!
YOU CAN... CHOOSE... NOT... TO KILL KAINA ...
MO... THEEER !!
CHOOSE A PATH... YOU WILL... NOT... REGRET...
AAAA-AAH!!


YOUR FATHER... AND I... WILL AL...WAYS... THINK OF YOU... DEARLY...
SAKUYA ...
TAKE THIS BEAD AND HEAD TO A MOUNTAIN TEMPLE BY THE NAME OF "SAKUOU TEMPLE"
IT IS THERE THAT YOU WILL... LEARN THE TRUTH OF ORINOMIYA
ONCE YOU HAVE DONE THAT YOU ARE FREE TO RETURN HERE AND BURY US. WHAT? THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT


THIS PLACE IS VERY DEAR TO FUURAI AND I...
FAREWELL... MOTHER!!



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LEAVE THIS PLACE, YAE!!
WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH THIS OURSELVES!
31
YOU MUST GO TO SAKUYA-SAMA!!
HYAAAAA!
ｽﾞﾝ
HIWHAAA!


.....!?


JU...
JUST... WHERE AM I?
31
SAKUOU TEMPLE


ボヤ…
IS THIS … MI… LADY?
ULULU …
OWOWOW…
EVER SINCE THEN… I'VE… …!!
SO THEN …
AND THEN I CLUMSILY FELL FROM A CLIFF…
I… WENT SEARCHING FOR MILADY…
HUH? ORINOMIYA WAS UNDER ATTACK…
カラ…
!
SAKUYA-CHAN'S BEEN TENDING TO YOU EVER SINCE YOU CAME HERE.
WH… WHY IS MILADY RIGHT BESIDE ME?


N-NOOO ...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.
WH... WHO ARE YOU?!
MY NAME IS GENKUU ...
I AM A MONK IN TRAINING AT THIS OLD TEMPLE... "SAKUOU TEMPLE" ...
BUT EVEN THOUGH I SAY THAT IT'S JUST ME AND THE HEAD PRIEST HERE.


THAT GIRL... SAKUYA-CHAN CAME TO US CARRYING YOU ON HER BACK
AND ASKING FOR OUR HELP, YOU KNOW ...


HERE ARE YOUR GLASSES
THEY WERE A LITTLE CROOKED SO I FIXED THEM FOR YOU.

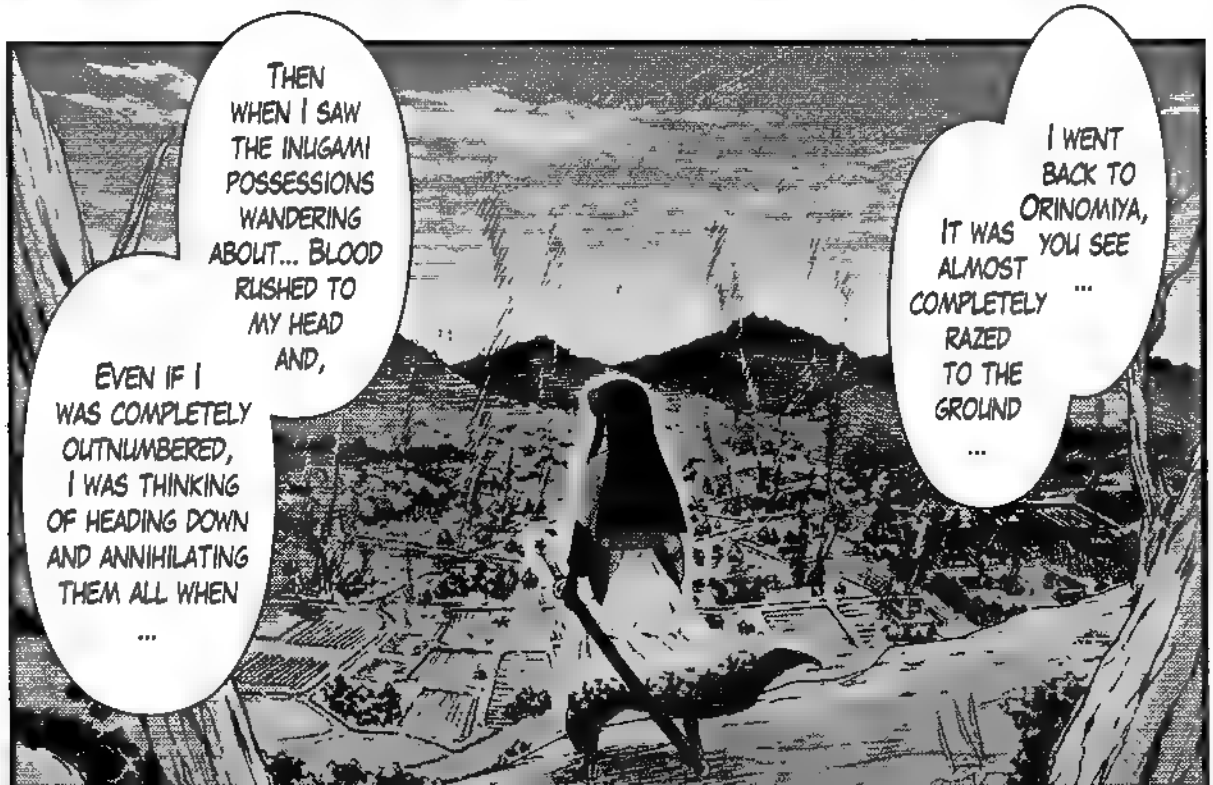

MILADY... SAVED ME?


THA... THANK YOU...
HM...


AH... YAE-SAN ...
むにゃ...
MILADY !!


じわ…


THANK GOODNESS …
EEH ?!


I WENT BACK TO ORINOMIYA, YOU SEE …
IT WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY RAZED TO THE GROUND …
THEN WHEN I SAW THE INUGAMI POSSESSIONS WANDERING ABOUT… BLOOD RUSHED TO MY HEAD AND,
EVEN IF I WAS COMPLETELY OUTNUMBERED, I WAS THINKING OF HEADING DOWN AND ANNIHILATING THEM ALL WHEN …


I THEN CAME TO THIS TEMPLE AS MOTHER HAD TOLD ME...
I FOUND YOU UNCONSCIOUS UNDERNEATH A CLIFF...
AND THOUGHT IT BEST TO SAVE YOU... INSTEAD OF RUSHING HEADLONG INTO ALL THOSE INUGAMI POSSESSIONS ...
YAE-SAN, IF YOU HAD DIED, I-
WOULD HAVE LOST MY FAMILY ...
HIC!! EEE...
.....!
IT... IT CAN'T BE...
THEN... MY LADY IS-?!
YES... MOTHER... IS NO LONGER ...
HIC!
.....!!


BIEEEEEEEEEE
M... MY LAAAA-AAADY ...
WAA-AAHN YAE-SAAAN ...
UAAAAH ...
THAT I COULD NOT PROTECT HE... EEEER...
UOOH... I AM SO SORRY..
OOOU... HIGUU I... I WILL BE SURE TO... PRO-PROTECT YOU WITHOUT FAIL MILADY...


HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?
YES
THE HEAD PRIEST HAS ASKED TO SEE YOU.


……
YOU HAVE QUESTIONS RIGHT?
THEN PLEASE, COME IN...
カラ…
THE ONE INSIDE IS THE HEAD PRIEST ...
ギ…


HIS NAME IS MASTER HYAKKAI
SO YOU HAVE COME HM...
TO BEGIN WITH TAKE A SEA
YOU CAME BEARING FUURAI'S BEAD AND CHIHA'S HAIR TIE
SO THAT IS TO SAY THAT YOUR PARENTS ARE NO LONGER WITH US
HAVE YOU FINISHED SORTING THROUGH YOUR FEELINGS ?
YES...


YES...
SHE TOLD ME TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE "TRUTH" OF ORINOMIYA ...
THAT HEAD OF THE INUGAMI... PASSING ON AS SHE DID. SHE WAS A VERY CUNNING WOMAN, YOU KNOW...
SHE TOLD YOU TO COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT "THAT, " DID SHE NOT?
VERY WELL...
AS YOU KNOW ORINOMIYA IS CURSED LAND...
AS WELL AS A CLOSED LAND MADE SO AS TO KEEP THINGS FROM ESCAPING INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
HOWEVER, DO YOU NOT FIND IT STRANGE
THAT EVEN WITH THE LAND BEING AS DETESTABLE AS IT WAS THEN WHY WOULD ANYONE WISH TO LIVE THERE?
IF ANYTHING THEY SHOULD HAVE MADE IT A LAND FORBIDDEN TO ANYONE, CORRECT?


I... I AM SURE IT WAS A MATTER ...
OF THE PEOPLE BEING UNABLE TO ABANDON THEIR LANDS ...
IS THAT REALLY THE ONLY REASON?
LIKE FOR INSTANCE-
WHAT IF ORINOMIYA
WAS MADE INTO A "PRESERVE" ?
A... A
PRE-SERVE ?
THE CURSE OF THIS LAND ARE THOSE THAT POSSESS "PEOPLE" ...
WITHOUT PEOPLE AROUND THEY JUST WANDER AIMLESSLY IN SEARCH OF THEM... ORINOMIYA WAS MADE SO THAT WOULD NOT HAPPEN...


THE CURSE WAS CONFINED TO THESE LANDS AND IT IS HERE THAT IT CIRCULATES ...
IF THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
EEH?!
IN THIS COUNTRY THERE ARE MANY LANDS THAT BEAR CURSES UPON THEM..
AND THERE IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO SEAL THEM AWAY...


"URAKA-GOME" ...
THERE ARE THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE "URAKAGOME" ...
THEY ARE A GROUP WHO HAVE HAD TIES WITH THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THIS COUNTRY SINCE TIMES IMMEMORIAL... AND MAKE SEALING AWAY DISASTROUS LANDS THEIR TRADE.


HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE ACCURSED LAND OF ORINOMIYA, THE INUGAMI, WERE ALREADY SERVING THAT PURPOSE.
THEY THEN CAME TO SERVE UNDER THE "URAKAGOME"
AND SO THE INUGAMI AS WELL AS THAT CLAN WERE TASKED WITH WATCHING OVER THAT LAND...
TO BEGIN WITH, THE INUGAMI CLAN WAS A CLAN OF MERCENARIES THAT MADE THEIR LIVELIHOOD BY LENDING SOLDIERS IN TIMES OF WAR, BUT... THEIR SERVICES WERE NOT NEEDED IN TIMES OF PEACE SO...
TO BE GIVEN THIS DUTY MUST HAVE BEEN A GIFT FROM GOD TO THEM.


Their sword technique known as "Suppression"
A technique that simply slays Inugami possessions ...
If they were able to use it for that purpose... they would be promised a duty, wealth as well as a reason for their existence...
However, in order for that duty to continue, they had to ensure that the "curse" would not disappear.
As such, there was a need to trap it within the village... and keep it circulating ...
Had the "curse" scattered their duty would have been in jeopardy, you see.
Kuu
In order for you Inugami to monopolize the "curse" you tied down them down in "forests" and used villagers as bait.
You all unconsciously fell under the illusion that you could not let them out.


THEN THAT WOULD MEAN ...
THA... THAT CAN'T BE...
TO YOU ALL THE "FOREST" WAS A BARRIER THAT WAS LIKE TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
YOU WOULD BIND INUGAMI POSSESSIONS AS WELL AS PEOPLE...


HM... YOU ARE ...
THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE INUMORI, CORRECT?


YO... YOU ARE A GREAT PERSON, MILADY!
YOU ALWAYS SWUNG YOUR SWORD SO AS TO SAVE PEOPLE!


JUST WHAT ARE YOU SAYING
WHEN YOU INUMORIS WERE THE VERY ONES
WHO INSTIGATED THIS INFERNAL PRACTICE?
.....!!


You speak of helping the Inugami when you
Deceive them, whisper to them... As well as control them...
That is the true form of you " Inumoris" .
You were set in a position nearest to the Inugami so as to observe them were you not?
No...
Or are you saying that was not your true purpose?
Tha... Tha... That's ...
It...
It's not ...
Mi...
Milady!

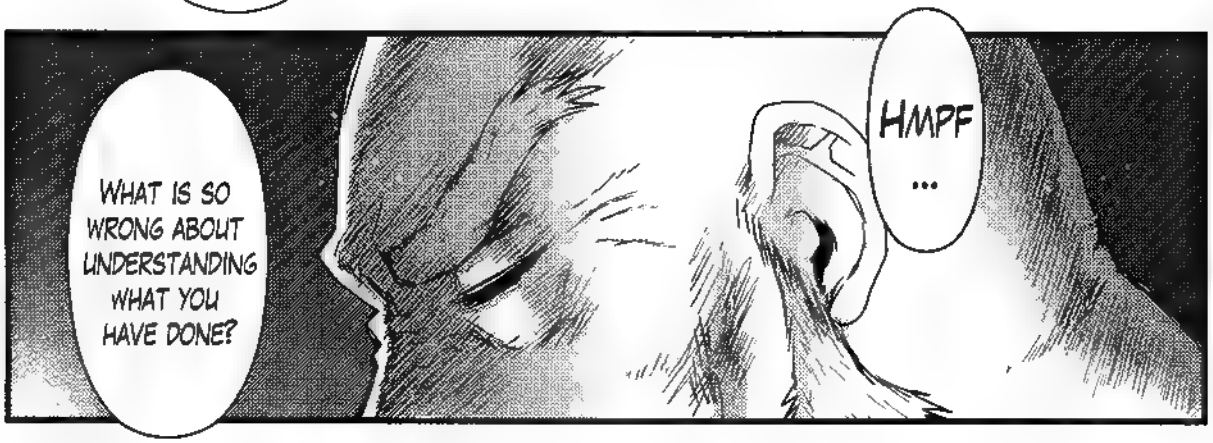

ヤアアアア
SO EVERYTHING I HAD DONE ...
EVERYTHING I LEARNED ...
JUST WHAT WAS IT ALL?
WHAT SHOULD I BELIEVE IN?


EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THAT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ...
CHOOSE A PATH... YOU WILL NOT REGRET ...


MOTHER ...


THE FIRST IMPRESSION YOU MADE ON THEM WAS THAT YOU'RE JUST A MEAN OLD MAN, MASTER ...
AH-AH, YOU MADE THEM BOTH CRY...


SAKUYA-CHAN'S...
THE DAUGHTER OF BROTHER FUURAI, RIGHT?
DOESN'T THAT MAKE HER YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER?


HMPF...
WHAT IS SO WRONG ABOUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU HAVE DONE?


IF THIS IS ENOUGH TO BREAK HER SPIRITS...
THEN SHE IS NO GRAND-DAUGHTER OF MINE.

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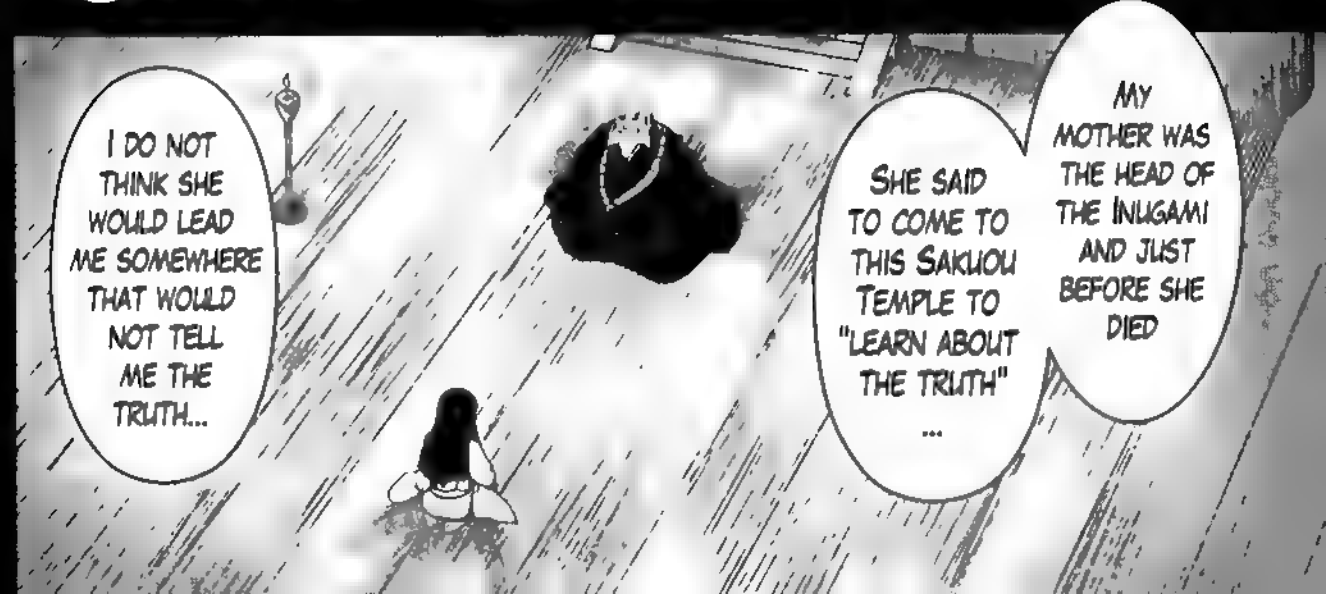

NOW, GO RIGHT AHEAD.
32
.....
A...

32
THE LIGHTLESS ABYSS


YOU WISHED TO SPEAK TO ME?
YES...
AFTER HEARING WHAT YOU TOLD ME YESTERDAY ...
TO BE HONEST... I AM CONFUSED ...


HMMM ...
I AM JUST... AT AN UTTER LOSS ...
IN REGARDS TO WHAT MY CLAN DID... AS WELL AS WHAT I AM TO DO NOW ...


NO...
I DO NOT BELIEVE... THAT WAS SO...
IT MIGHT HAVE ALL BEEN A DISILLUSION YOU WERE ALL UNDER, YOU KNOW ?
DID YOU NOT TRULY GRASP WHAT I WAS SAYING?


I DO NOT THINK SHE WOULD LEAD ME SOMEWHERE THAT WOULD NOT TELL ME THE TRUTH...
SHE SAID TO COME TO THIS SAKUOU TEMPLE TO "LEARN ABOUT THE TRUTH" ...
MY MOTHER WAS THE HEAD OF THE INUGAMI AND JUST BEFORE SHE DIED


FORTUNATELY ... THIS IS A SANCTUARY ...
.....
HOWEVER... YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE... TO FIND YOUR WAY.
SO AFTER LEARNING THE TRUTH YOU HAVE BECOME LOST, HM ...


HOWEVER... I WILL HAVE YOU LIVE AS A MONK IN TRAINING ...
YOU ARE FREE TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR ANSWER...


IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY ...


HEEEH!
I DO NOT FIGHT SERIOUSLY... AGAINST NORMAL PEOPLE...
FORGIVE ME


BY THE WAY... THAT INUMORI GIRL YOU CAME WITH ...
HER NAME WAS YAE-SAN, RIGHT?
.....


I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED ANY LESS FROM A PRIESTESS WHO SUPPRESSES INUGAMI, HUH!
I GUESS THAT MEANS I WON'T MAKE MUCH OF A SPARRING PARTNER THEN...


EVER SINCE YOU HAD THAT TALK WITH MASTER HYAKKAI... THINGS HAVE GOTTEN AWKWARD BETWEEN YOU TWO... AND YOU TWO HAVE NOT REALLY LOOKED EACH OTHER IN THE EYE, EITHER ...
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?


THE WHOLE THING ABOUT "THERE BEING NO INUGAMI POSSESSIONS HERE"
AND "THERE BEING NO DANGER HERE" WAS ALL JUST SOMETHING WE WANTED YOU TO THINK...
WHY DO YOU ASK?
SHEESH ...
YOU'VE GOT NO SENSE OF DANGER... HUH
OH, NOTHING... IT'S JUST THAT HER BODY...
HER BODY JUST LOOKED SO TASTY..
GENKUU... SAN...
WHAT... ARE YOU ...


THAT I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF SO LAST NIGHT...
I ENDED UP EATING HALF OF IT...

.....
!?


YAE-SAN...
GENKUU-SAN IS... AN INUGAMI POSSESSION ?!
AAAAAH!!
THIS CAN'T BE... THIS CAN'T BE!!
OH...
YOU'RE A LOT FASTER THAN BEFORE ...
BUT ...


スパーン
……


WAS THAT YOU FIGHTING SERIOUSLY JUST NOW?
THAT WASN'T EVEN CLOSE, RIGHT?
YO... YOU...
A... ATE YA-
MI- LAAAAADY!
!
MI... MILAAAAADY!!
HA... HAVE YOU SEEN MY... MY GLASSEEEEES!?
KUU...
MILADY!
AAH!


MOTH...
ER...


THE BLOOD WAS MINE...!
YOU JUST WEREN'T TAKING ME SERIOUSLY, SO... I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
SORRY I LIED TO YOU...


PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN EXPELLED BECAUSE OF THEIR BECOMING INUGAMI POSSESSIONS ARE NEVER ABLE TO RETURN, YOU SEE...
OR NO... I GUESS "HUMANS" WHO ARE TROUBLED WITH BEING INUGAMI POSSESSIONS WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE...
FOR INUGAMI POSSESSIONS, YOU SEE...
.....
THIS PLACE IS A SANCTUARY ...

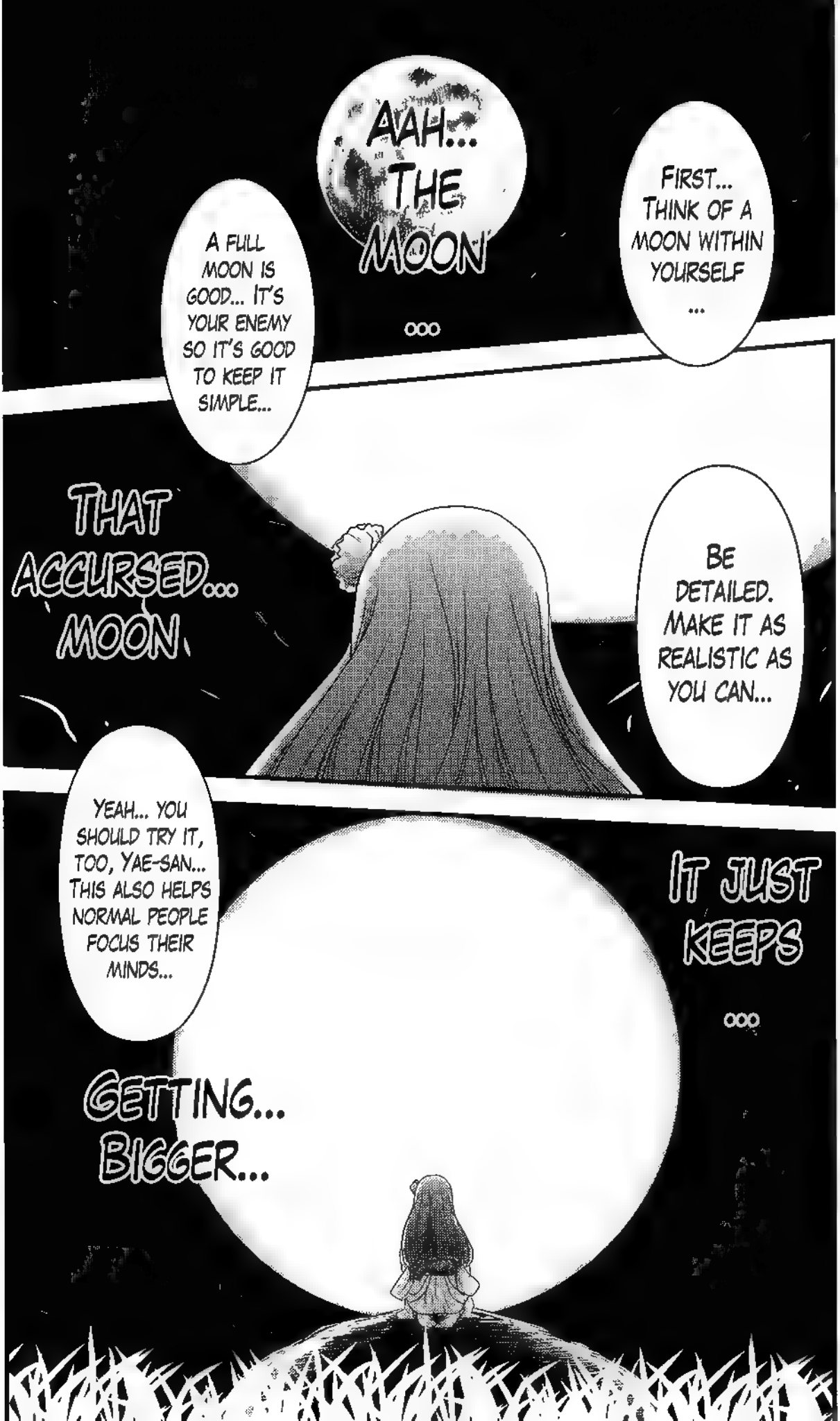

HE MAY HAVE SAVED MY LIFE BUT IN THE END I WAS STILL HIT WITH THE CURSE THAT WOULD TURN ME INTO A BEAST..
A LONG TIME AGO... MASTER HYAKKAI SAVED ME AFTER I HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY AN INUGAMI POSSESSION ...


AND GOES ABOUT TRAINING AGAINST THAT INNER MOON AS WELL AS YOURSELF THIS IS WHAT WE CALL THE "THOUGHTS OF THE FULL MOON."
SO IN ORDER TO CONQUER THAT ONE CREATES AN IMAGE OF THE MOON WITHIN ONESELF
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS, BUT... THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CURSED END UP HEARING THE SOUND OF THE MOON THAT DRIVES PEOPLE MAD...


In addition, we go about training our bodies as well as well as refining our skills. That is the "Avidya Sakuoji Martial Arts Style".
Those are the two things I am training in here.
Thanks to that, though I can't say I'm perfect, I am living a pretty good life as a "human being".
But just to be safe... I make a point of not really interacting with people save for going shopping.
But... Even so...


I am thankful that I get to live my life as a "human being"...
To Master Hyakkai, this temple...
And your father, too ...


MY... FA..THER?
YEAH... HE WAS MY SENIOR HERE AND HE REALLY WORKED ME HARD...
YOUR FATHER WAS REALLY STRONG, YOU KNOW ...
BUT EVEN HE WAS UNABLE TO SUBDUE THE CURSE...
I TALKED ABOUT EARLIER BUT THE THOUGHTS OF THE FULL MOON
ARE A KIND OF MENTAL TRAINING FOR US ...
SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT FOR A LITTLE BIT?


AAH... THE MOON
...
FIRST... THINK OF A MOON WITHIN YOURSELF ...
A FULL MOON IS GOOD... IT'S YOUR ENEMY SO IT'S GOOD TO KEEP IT SIMPLE...
THAT ACCURSED... MOON
BE DETAILED. MAKE IT AS REALISTIC AS YOU CAN...
YEAH... YOU SHOULD TRY IT, TOO, YAE-SAN... THIS ALSO HELPS NORMAL PEOPLE FOCUS THEIR MINDS...
IT JUST KEEPS
...
GETTING... BIGGER...


AAH... IT'S... NO USE...
IT... IT IS... JUST OVER-WHELMING ME...


AH... "THIS" ...


I AM SINKING ...
"THIS" IS HAPPENING AGAIN...


THE PLACE WHERE ALL THE ANCIENT MEMORIES OF THE INUGAMI REST...
ゴボ...
THE HELL OF ABYSSAL SUPPRESSION
I JUST KEEP SINKING... AND SINKING...
AT THIS RATE... I WILL EVEN REACH... THE ABYSS...
ANCIENT MEMORIES... THE ABYSS... I SEE...
IF I GO THERE... I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE THEM...
I WILL GO AND SEE THEM FOR MYSELF...
ALL OF IT... FOR AS LONG AS I CAN...
ゴボッ...


AH... OH RIGHT ...
FOR THOSE FIRST TRYING IT IS BEST TO ENVISION A SMALL MOON... FROM FARAWAY-
.....?


MI... LADY?
MI... MILADY ?!
WHAT'S WRONG ?
!


SHE... SHE SUDDENLY LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS!!


I WILL TRY TO GO AS FAR AS I CAN...
AND FIND ...
MY OWN ANSWER!!
ブクブク...

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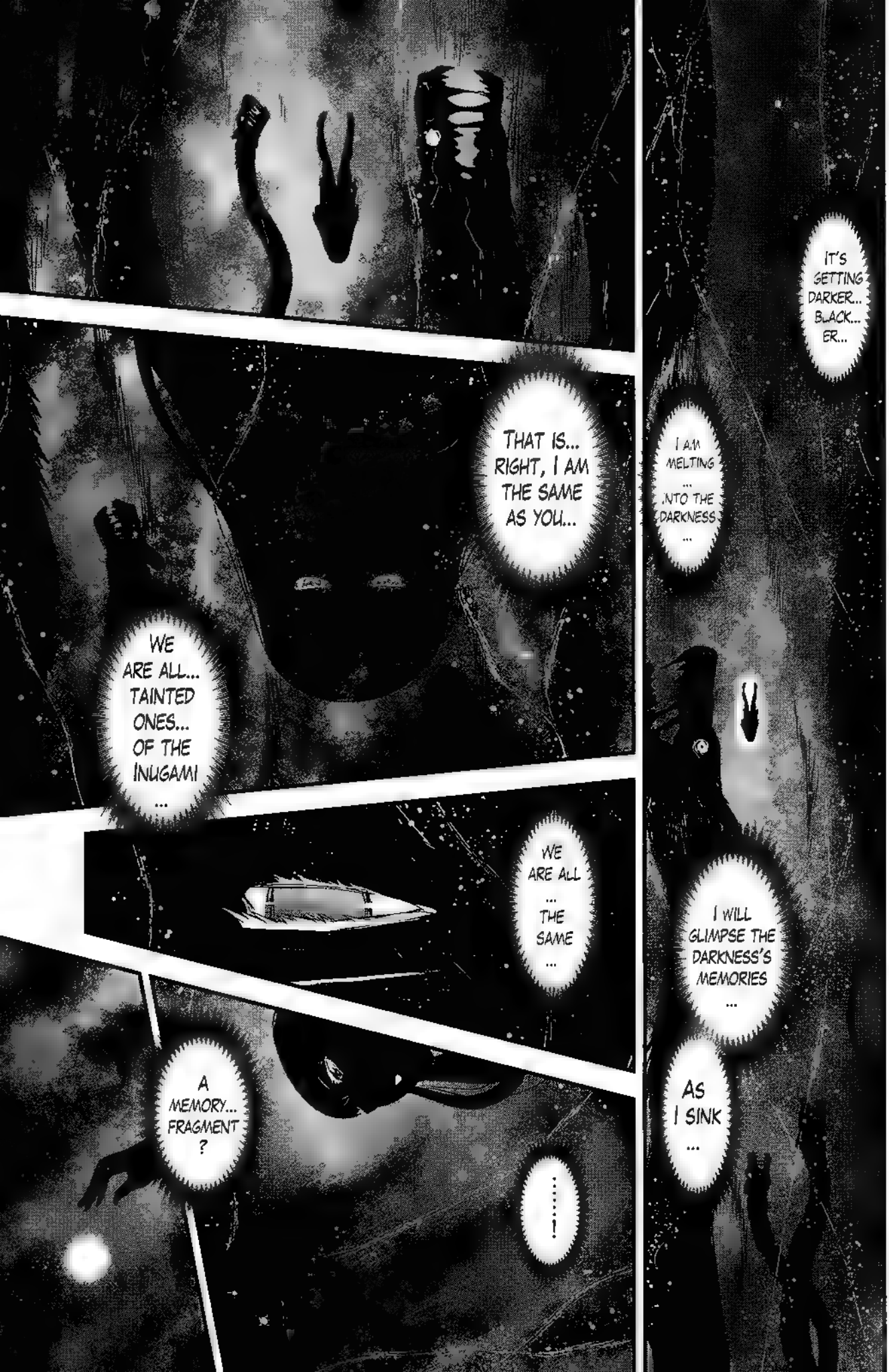
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38
I HAVE... RETURNED TO THE ABYSS AGAIN...
I WONDER IF I WILL BE ABLE TO DIVE INTO IT...
LAST TIME I FAILED BECAUSE IT SEEMED AS THOUGH IT WAS TRYING TO TAKE ME IN, BUT...
I WILL GO!!
I WILL SEE EVERYTHING AND ACCEPT IT!

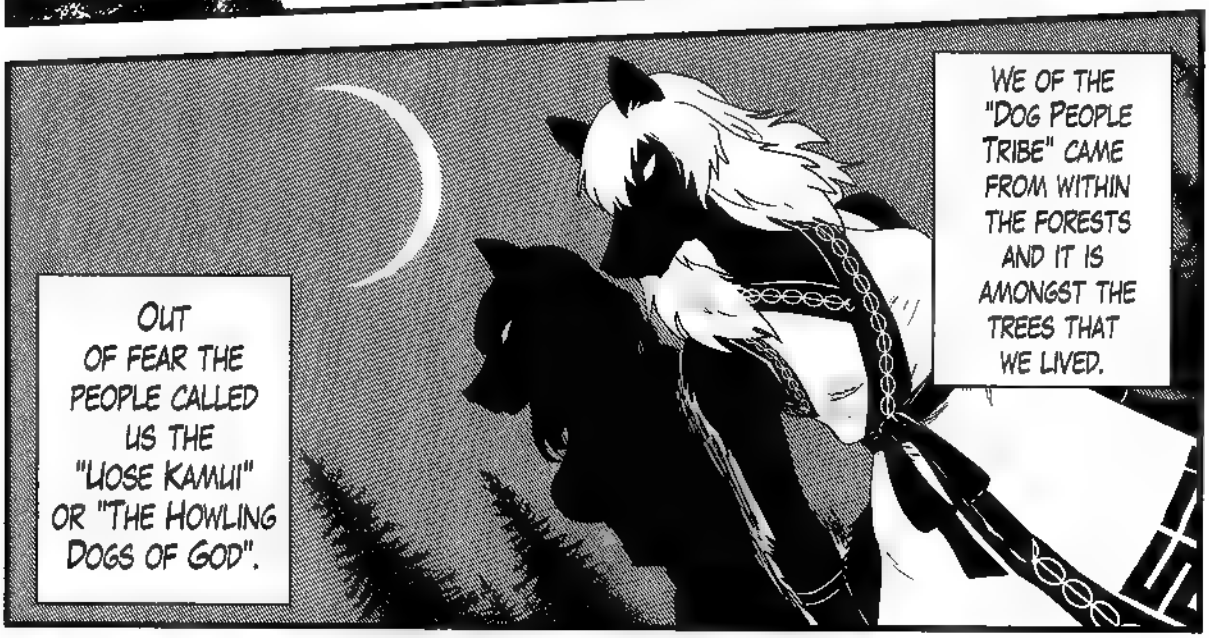

38
VISIONS OF BECOMING HUMAN 1 ~
UOSE KAMUI, THE DOG PEOPLE TRIBE~
HERE IT COMES...
THE DARKNESS IS ENTERING ME...
AH... IT... IS... FINE... I ACCEPT YOU...


IT'S GETTING DARKER... BLACK... ER...
I AM MELTING ... INTO THE DARKNESS ...
I WILL GLIMPSE THE DARKNESS'S MEMORIES ...
AS I SINK ...
THAT IS... RIGHT, I AM THE SAME AS YOU...
WE ARE ALL... TAINTED ONES... OF THE INUGAMI ...
WE ARE ALL ... THE SAME ...
A MEMORY... FRAGMENT ?
.....!


!
OH? YOU WENT TO THAT HUMAN VILLAGE AGAIN?
YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU? THE LAST TIME YOU WENT YOU GOT ATTACKED AND LOST YOUR EYE, DIDN'T YOU?
IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU THAT THEY ARE UNDER-ESTIMATING THE WOSE KAMUI, YOU KNOW.


YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU, SAKURUU?
HM...
WHATEVER THE CASE... I DOUBT THAT SHE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE HUMANS...
クスクス
AH... THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE THAT HATED CHILD, AREN'T YOU ...
SO IF ANYTHING YOU MIGHT LOOK MORE HUMAN THAN ANYTHING ELSE...
A LOWLY HUMAN... THAT IS ...
UHU... UHUHU


Because even Mom... was able to fall in love with my human father and he fell in love with her and had me.
No... I should be able to make friends with them ...
.....
Ahahaha, that's probably why they didn't try to finish her off


We of the "Dog People Tribe" came from within the forests and it is amongst the trees that we lived.
Out of fear the people called us the "Uose Kamui" or "The Howling Dogs of God".


It was because we would occasionally drink human blood as well as eat human flesh...
However, there was one other reason...
In this clan that only gives birth to "women" ...


There are times where we would abduct human men for the sake of copulation.
We do so after biting them, infusing them with beast spirits... and temporarily turning them into dog men.
If this is not done then it apparently isn't enough to give birth to pure blooded dog people.
Then once the copulating is done ...
We kill them with our Emushi (Katana) ...
This was the law of our clan ...
SUPPRESS!


WE WERE JUST LIKE PRAYING MANTISES... I THOUGHT TO MYSELF...
HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF A PRAYING MANTIS, I WANTED TO FALL IN LOVE MORE LIKE A HUMAN BEING


BUT BEFORE THAT
I NEED TO START BY MAKING FRIENDS!!


IF I FOLLOW THESE LIGHTS THEN I'M SURE TO LEARN MORE...
THIS GIRL LOOKS JUST LIKE... OSEKAI-HIME...
.....


I HAVE HAD ENOUGH, YOU ARE SETTING A POOR EXAMPLE TO THE OTHERS ...
AS SUCH I CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE YOU TWO REMAIN HERE...
I UNDER-STAND ...
IN OUR TRIBE IT IS TABOO TO DILUTE OUR BLOODLINE ...
AS YOU HAVE DONE JUST THAT YOU HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT YOURSELF ...
MOTHER ...
ぎゅ!


SAKURUU... LET US GO SOUTH!!
"THAT MAN" SAID THAT IT IS WARMER IF WE GO SOUTH.
UH-HUH!
AND SO WE JOURNEYED FAR SOUTH...


DURING OUR JOURNEY... MOTHER TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS IN REGARDS TO THE SECRET ARTS AND SWORD TECHNIQUES OF OUR PEOPLE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT SHE MAY HAVE TAUGHT ME ALL THIS... SO I WOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE ON MY OWN.


LASTLY... IS THIS ONE. YOU CAN ONLY USE IT ONCE AND IT IS THE MOST SECRET OF OUR SECRET TECHNIQUES ...
SO MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT USE IT RECKLESSLY ...
ITS NAME IS...
WE JOURNEYED FROM FOREST TO FOREST... UNTIL WE FINALLY REACHED OUR DESTINATION.


THE LAST FOREST BEING ONE CALLED THE "OOFURU FOREST" ...
IN THE PROCESS MOTHER HAD BECOME EXHAUSTED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY AND SO WAS FORCED TO LIE DOWN.
MOTHER
I CAUGHT ANOTHER RAT TODAY.
SAKURUU ...
MOTHER ?
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT. YOU ARE THAT MAN'S AND MY CHILD, AFTER ALL ...
DO YOUR BEST TO LIVE ...
UNLIKE YOUR MOTHER, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE AMONGST THE HUMANS IF YOU COVER YOUR EARS.


AND HE CAME WITH THE SUMMER... YOU KNOW...
MOM !!
ONCE SHE SAID THAT, MOTHER BREATHED NO MORE.


LOOKING BACK MOTHER HAD GONE A LONG WHILE WITHOUT DRINKING HUMAN BLOOD ...
IT IS SAID THAT PEOPLE OF THE DOG PEOPLE TRIBE ARE ABLE TO LIVE LONG LIVES BY EATING THE FLESH AND BLOOD OF HUMANS...
FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER DRUNK HUMAN BLOOD LIKE MYSELF WILL I PASS AWAY LIKE THIS, TOO?


THEN SOME YEARS LATER ...
'TIS A FINE MOON, IS IT NOT?


HOW ABOUT YOU COMPOSE A POEM, YORUCHIKA ?
OIOI
YOU KNOW THAT I AM UNSKILLED WITH POETRY, DO YOU NOT... KOUGEN?


HUAHUA... SUCH IS WHY YOU FAIL TO BE APPEALING TO THE FAIRER SEX.
HAHAA, WELL SUCH COULD BE SAID FOR THE BOTH OF US, WOULD IT NOT?
HUHU-HUU...


?
YOU TWO ARE QUITE AMUSING ...


OOOH!
NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE. I'M JUST THE MESSENGER FOR YOU COULD EVEN SAY WE'RE ON CALL AS A PROTECTION FOR HER
YOU ARE QUITE THOUGHTFUL, KOUGEN!
I CALLED NO SUCH THING


ヒュー
A MANNER OF MONONOKE !!
EEH ?!
ヒュ
WHAT IS MORE THAN GIRL IS
ドサッ
HUHUH
!?


LET ME JOIN YOU.
ちょこーん♡
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, ONMYOUJI
KOUGEN ...


IT IS FINE, IS IT NOT? EVEN IF SHE IS A MONO-NOKE ...
SHE IS CUTE... HEHEHE ...
YO... YORU-CHIKA ?!
!?
?


HIC
I AM STILL CALLED AN "LIOSE KAMUI"
DO NOT CALL ME A "MONONOKE" ... EVEN AS I AM...
JUST WHAT IS YOUR OBJECTIVE... MONONOKE ?
NEVER MIND, THAT WILL DO ...
O... SEKAMI?
HIC HIC
U-O-S-E ...
OSE-KAMI?
!?
VERY WELL!
PLEASE BE MY COMPANION !!
AH... WELL ...
UMMMM...
'TIS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
THAT IS HER NAME, IS IT NOT?
I DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND IT BUT YOU TRULY ARE CUTE...
SO YOU ARE OSEKAMI NO HIME, HM...


IF...
IF WE START OUT AS FRIENDS... THEN...
AFTER MANY YEARS OF DREAMING I HAD FINALLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN!!


PUPU...
I ACTUALLY HAVE EARS UNDER HERE...
EVER SINCE THEN EVERY DAY WAS A NEW DISCOVERY FOR ME...
HAA
YORUCHIKA PAID NO HEED TO THE SMALL THINGS... WHETHER THEY BE MY EARS OR TAIL AND LOVED ME WITH ALL HIS HEART...
TO HIM HE WAS JUST HAPPY THAT I WAS HIS LOVER AND WE ENJOYED WHISPERING SWEET INTIMACIES TO ONE ANOTHER ...
IT WAS DURING THOSE TIMES THAT I WAS TRULY HAPPY ...
HAA

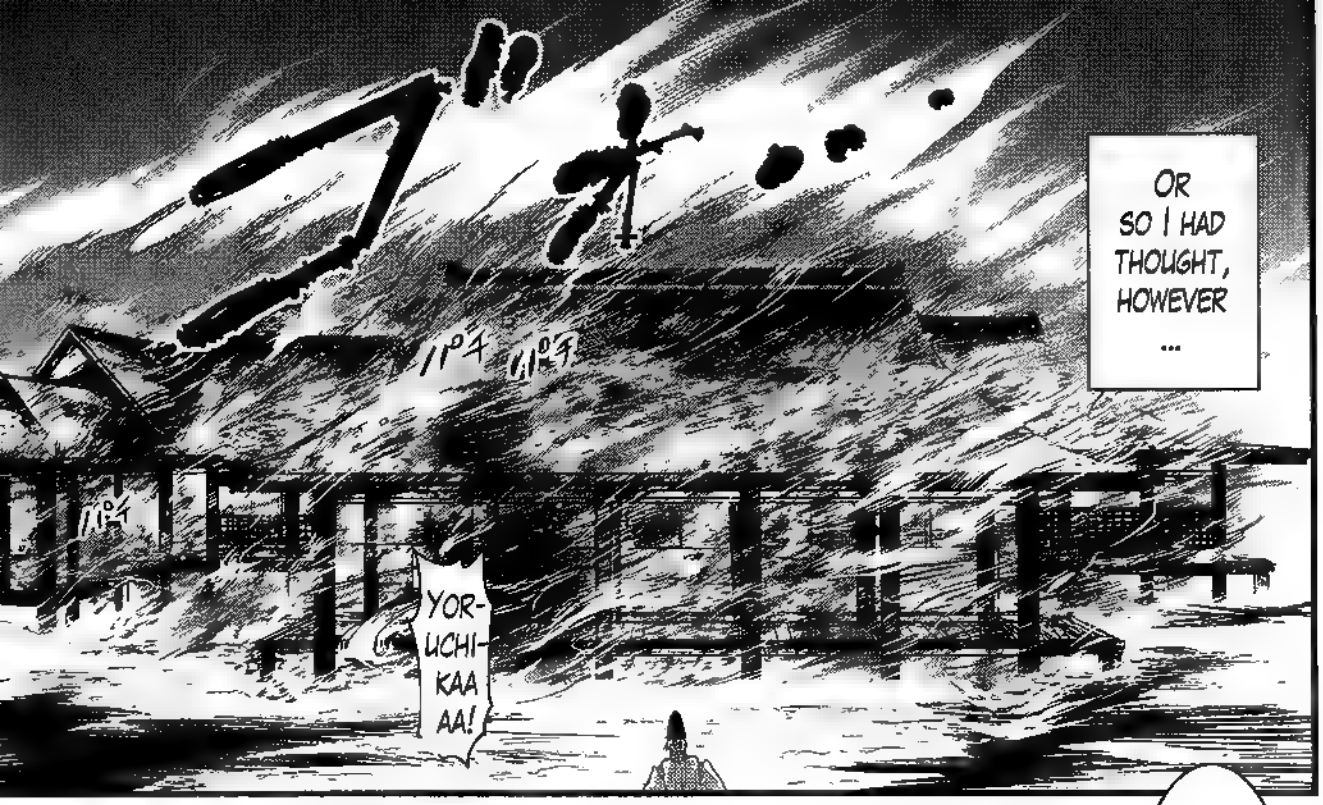

AH?!
OOW !!
AAH... AAAAH, FO- FORGIVE ME!
I BIT HIM!!
OWOWOW... 'TIS NOTHING... HAHAHA, PAY IT NO HEED.
IN THE THROES OF MY ECSTASY I LET MY GUARD DOWN AND ENDED UP BITING HIM!
I HAD STOPPED PARTWAY SO HE WILL BE ALL RIGHT... HE SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT ...
YOU TRULY ARE DESERVING OF THE NAME OSEKAMI-HIME, HUH?
HAHAHAHAHAHA
YOU FOOL!
I DO NOT... WISH TO BECOME A "PRAYING MANTIS" .

TL NOTE: ONE TRANSLATION OF "OSEKAMI-HIME" IS "LOVE BITE PRINCESS"

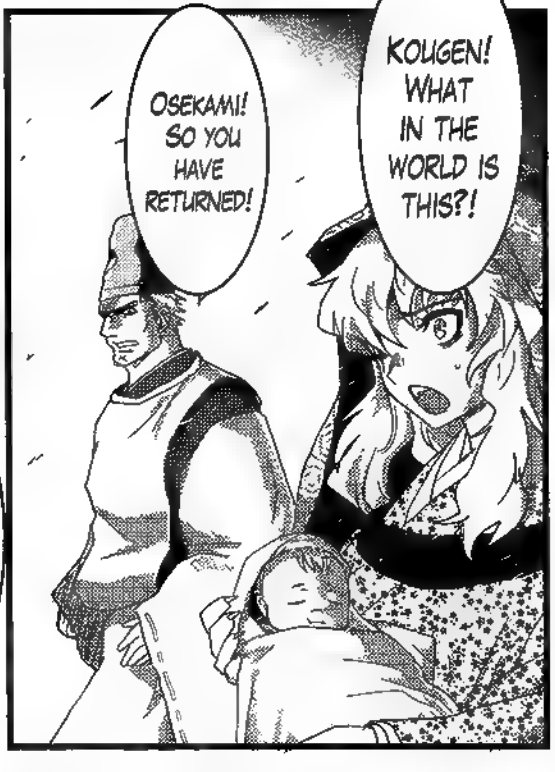

I LOVE YOU, OSE-KAMI ...
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT ...
IT IS ALL RIGHT ...
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT...


ホギャア
ホギャア
IT WAS AFTER THAT THAT I BECAME WITH CHILD
AND I GAVE BIRTH TO A DARLING HUMAN GIRL.
IT IS A GIRL ...


YOU HAVE DONE WELL! OSEKAMI!
HO...
OOOH
THANK GOODNESS ...
I WAS NOT A "PRAYING MANTIS" ...


OR SO I HAD THOUGHT, HOWEVER ...
YOR-UCHI-KAA AA!


SOME SORT OF CURSE... MADE YORUCHIKA TAKE ON THE FORM OF A BEAST, DEVOUR HIS SERVANTS
AND SET FIRE TO HIS MANSION!
DAMN! TO THINK THIS ALL HAPPENED WHILE I WAS RIGHT BY HIS SIDE!


KOUGEN! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS?!
OSEKAMI! SO YOU HAVE RETURNED!


IT CANNOT BE-
IT IS...
MY FAULT!


OI! OSE-KAMI!
LEAVE MY DAUGHTER TO YOU!!
OO...
O... SEKA... MI...
WHAT... HAS BECOME... OF ME?
.....!
YORUC-HIKA...
FORGIVE ME...
FORGIVE ME...


THE MEN WHO ARE INFUSED WITH BEAST SPIRITS BECOME UNABLE TO SUPPRESS THEIR DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES...
OOOO-AAA-AAAH!
AS A LIVING BEING THEY END UP BECOMING FLAWED AND UNNATURAL ...
WITH MY MOTHER'S VARIOUS TEACHINGS
I KNEW HOW TO SAVE HIM ...
REGARDLESS OF HOW I FELT I UNSHEATHED MY SWORD WITHOUT HESITATION...


I-
I LEAVE... OUR...
CHILD... TO... YOU...
I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A "PRAYING MANTIS"
SUPPRESS!
WHO COULD NOT BECOME HUMAN.
月輪に斬り咲く⑤／完

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